

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

December 1998 £1.60

SOLDIER

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ARMY

Season's
greetings
to you all



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4-7 COVER STORY

With the first production model of the Rolls-Royce powered Apache WAH-64 helicopter being handed over to GKN Westland at Boeing's Mesa plant in Arizona, the Army Air Corps gets ever closer to the day it will receive its potent new aircraft. We look at how the US Army's Apache battalions are trained.

Picture: GKN Westland

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SOLDIER to soldier

Real jobs for weekend warriors

WE DO not forget that *Soldier* is the magazine of the Territorial Army. How could we? Each month we cover the exercises, good works and adventures that part-time soldiers manage to squeeze into their lives.

But reporting the biggest TA story in many years (Pages 14-15) has not been easy, partly because the root-and-branch review is complex, but also because we know that for many weekend warriors (a term of respect in our book) it heralds a time of considerable upheaval.

We understand the fears that such a severe reduction in strength may seriously damage the country's ability to cope with a major threat, and that many communities across Britain will lose part of their social fabric.

RECRUITMENT

It is reassuring, though, that the MoD has learned from the mistakes of that other foundation-shaking review, Options for Change, after which recruitment to the Regulars dropped perilously. This time, the TA will launch a sophisticated recruitment campaign while its restructuring is still in full swing.

This does, however, beg a few questions. With the greater likelihood that part-time soldiers will deploy overseas, will sufficient good men and women feel able to commit to the TA? And how will civilian employers view the possibility that their staff may suddenly don uniform and depart on operational tours?

Despite the reservations, the Government's reassurances should be accepted. For those soldiers who stay on, there will be more fulfilling training with more modern equipment, more real work to do and structured career development.

Special feature: Apache

Here comes the Cavalry

Report: Dennis Steele

"Longbow is, without a doubt, the finest helicopter in the world," said Lt Col Michael Riley, commander of the 1/227 Aviation, as the battalion began collective unit training at Fort Hood.

"What people do not know about the aircraft will scare them. An 'A' model-equipped battalion can kill an armoured regiment. A 'D' model battalion can kill a division."

Longbow is a major building block in plans for the US Army for the 21st century. It is designed for digital warfare, but will manoeuvre and fight like a great white shark, according to Col Riley.

A single, stalking aircraft, digitally linked to other AH-64Ds and command and control elements, will fly over a large area, constantly moving and hunting, separated from other Longbows by several miles. When prey is spotted by one helicopter, digital signals will bring the Longbows into a school, surrounding the prey.

Pilots will use information they gather at a distance to plan slashing attacks from directions that take advantage of the enemy's vulnerabilities. Like sharks, the Longbows will strike suddenly, kill swiftly and melt away, dispersing to re-load, refuel and continue the hunt.

RAVAGED

Improvements to the Apache and new capabilities began to take shape on the drawing board several years ago, but few truly knew what Longbow could achieve until an advanced warfighting experiment (AWE) at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California last year, when two prototype Longbows ravaged elements of the opposing force.

While the AWE was still in progress, the first production AH-64Ds rolled out of the Boeing facility at Mesa, Arizona. The helicopter's abilities and the tactics to employ it have since been honed through computer-simulated war games, US Army Command and General Staff College exercises and continued flight experiments as Army pilots gained practical experience by training with the aircraft.

"Some people had the vision to foresee what the aircraft could do," Col Riley said. "Now we have the opportunity to put 24 AH-64Ds in one organization. The territory we can cover has increased dramatically and Longbow lets us do things that we never did before."

The advanced fire-control radar (FCR) and radio frequency inferometer (RFI), which detects opposing radars, together with the target handover capabilities

As the British Army prepares for the arrival of the Longbow Apache, the Americans have fielded their own version of the world's most lethal attack helicopter. This feature describes its capability and tells how the US Cavalry has revolutionised its pilot training ready for the 21st century

British pilot is Apache Top Gun

FIRST Army Air Corps trained Apache Longbow pilot is "Top Gun" Capt David Amlôt.

And his title was earned the hard way – by scoring the highest marks in a three-week gunnery competition involving 64 pilots and 32 crews.



Double vision: Capt David Amlôt wearing the sophisticated helmet-mounted display (HMD)

Capt Amlôt teamed up with American co-pilot Capt Lain Hancock to score the only perfect run and earn the Top Gun accolade.

He is the AAC's exchange officer with the 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, currently being trained at Fort Hood, Texas. Before joining 1/227 Aviation he was a Lynx flight commander with the ARRC Flight at Sarajevo. He qualified as an AH-64A Apache pilot in April 1997 and has flown on counter-drug-smuggling operations along the Mexican border.

In February this year he became the first British pilot to qualify on the US Army's AH-64D Longbow Apache.

Apache-speak

AH-64A Basic Apache attack helicopter

AH-64D Later US version (nicknamed "Big Rig"), equipped with the Longbow Fire Control Radar missile system

WAH-64 Westland Attack Helicopter, derivative of the AH-64D. The version of the Apache destined for the British Army, equipped with Longbow and powered by Rolls-Royce Turbomeca RTM322 engines

among aircraft, allow a Longbow formation of three helicopters to be spread across a two- to five-kilometre front with one to three kilometres separating the lead and trailing aircraft.

Currently, there are two AH-64D variants. Atop the rotor mast of one is a large dome – the FCR – which has become the trademark of Longbow. The other, known

as the "flat-top" and which will be more numerous in the US Army inventory, is wired to accept the FCR system and otherwise has all the digital systems of an FCR-equipped Longbow. Its nickname comes from the platter-shaped disk that tops the mast, on which the FCR dome can be attached. One FCR/RFI Longbow can control an area of 250 square kilometres and pass tailored groups of targets to other Longbows.

After targets have been identified, it is a matter of pulling the trigger. "Every two seconds, a missile can leave the rail," Col Riley noted.

MISSILES

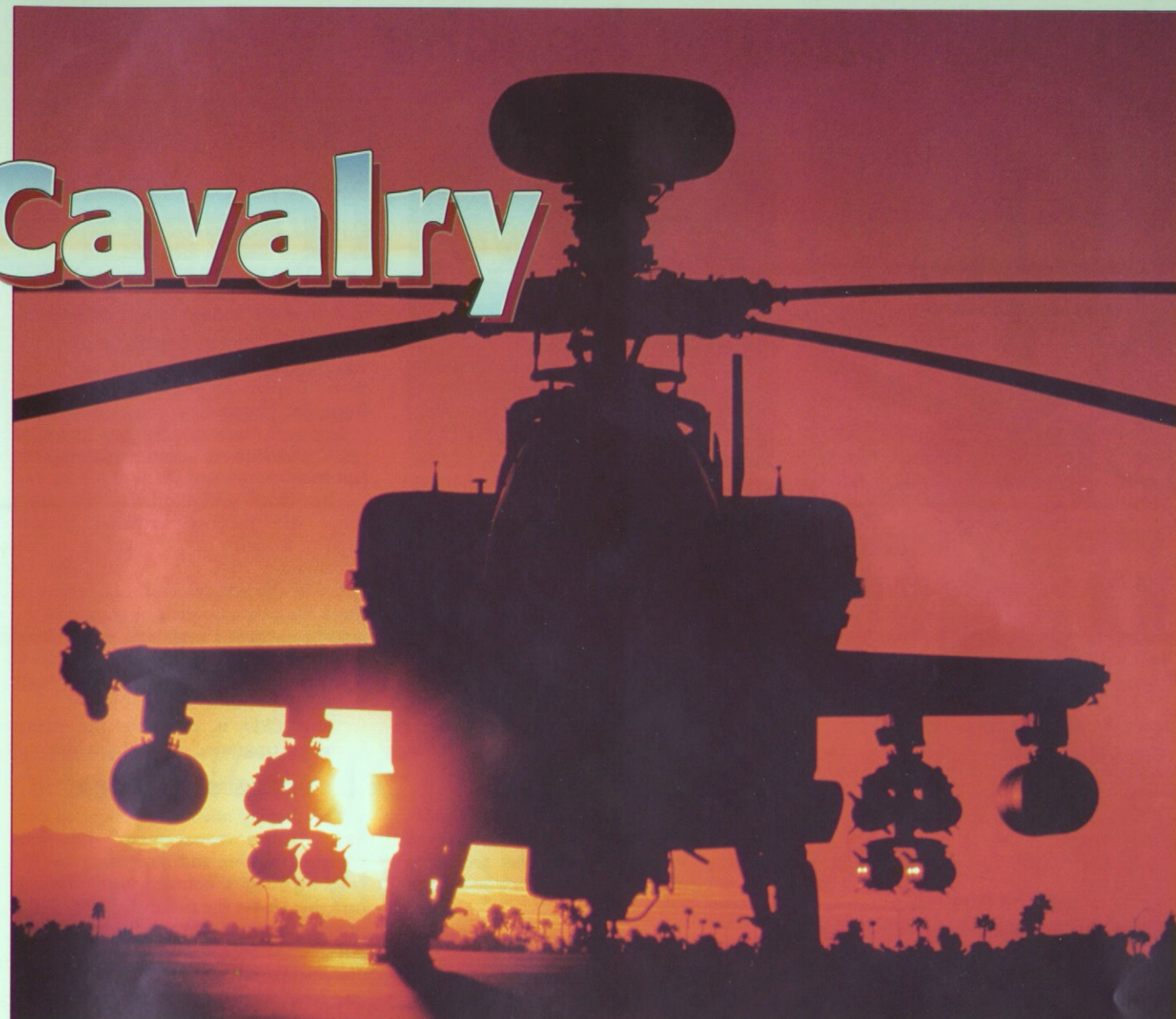
Each Longbow can carry up to 16 Hellfire anti-armour missiles. A sophisticated Longbow Hellfire missile, developed to take full advantage of the aircraft's capabilities, will independently seek the target on which it has been locked. The aircraft is also armed with a standard Apache 30mm cannon, and can employ Hydra missiles for ground-support missions.

The US Army's training sophistication must match the aircraft's – which is where the 21st Cavalry Brigade enters the picture. The brigade (its number denoting its mission to prepare for the 21st century) is a consolidated unit-training and aircraft-issuing organization under the Unit Fielding and Training Programme (UFTP), which builds a battalion from scratch into a combat-ready unit.

Battalions, assigned to the brigade for the duration of training, enter UFTP, receive their new aircraft and go on to complete a series of training objectives that lead the unit from the individual aircraft level through the team, platoon, company and battalion levels.

When evaluated and certified as combat-ready at corps commander level, a battalion could, if necessary, leave its graduation ceremony and head straight for combat as a trained, cohesive unit.

The UFTP concept started in the late 1980s with plans for the initial fielding of the "A" model



Deadly: The distinctive, menacing outline of Apache AH-64D (known as the "Big Rig") is silhouetted against a setting sun at Mesa, Arizona

Apache. "The then Army Vice Chief of Staff, Gen Maxwell Thurman, saw the Apache as a new way of fighting which required a new way of training," explained Lt Col Rem McNealy, deputy commander of the 21st Cavalry.

"So he directed the establishment of a single-station unit-equipping and training programme." Fort Hood, home of III Corps, was the chosen location because it would have the largest concentration of Apaches.

Training for the AH-64A continued

until the end of 1990 and the programme proved to be such a success – underlined by the performance of Apache units in Operation Desert Storm – that the same structure was used to field and train units for another up-dated attack helicopter, the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior.

"We were going to shut down after the final Kiowa unit, but the fielding plan for the Longbow came along, and now we are looking as far out as the Comanche fielding," said Col MacNealy.

The Army chose to keep the UFTP because, for time- and cost-effectiveness, it has strong advantages over other options.

What the 21st Cavalry can achieve in 6½ months would take 21 months for overseas locations and 16 months for US locations to accomplish if the Army had adopted a home-station training and fielding programme for Longbow.

Units begin their association with the 21st Cavalry about eight months before their training completion date, which is set to coincide with operational needs.

Adapted from *Army Magazine*, August 1998, copyright 1998, with the permission of the Association of the US Army

For approximately the first four months, soldiers go through individual training, while the unit prepares its aircraft and assets are lined up. Units are attached to the 21st for a period of 204 days, which includes 84 days of collective training, performed in four phases.

FOREIGN TRAINEES

The 21st will train 25 "Longbattalions" in the US Army's active and reserve components until 2009, as well as allied nations which buy Longbow under the foreign military sales programme. With British pilots due to train at Fort Rucker in Texas, the Royal Netherlands Air Force is expected to be largest foreign contingent to be looked after at Fort Hood.

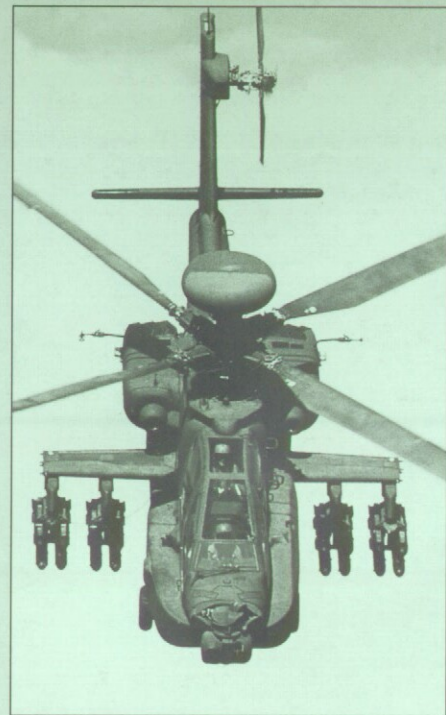
For the Dutchmen, the training area in central Texas will be larger than their home country. The 21st has land-use agreements with local owners that provide more than 46,000 square kilometres of training space for the aircraft (about 9,000 more than the whole of the Netherlands). The 21st sets up training scenarios, using its own opposing force (OPFOR) that can be deployed throughout the sparsely-populated ranching area

● Turn to next page



Up, up and away: The first WAH-64 takes to the air at Mesa

Special feature: Apache



Cavalry

● From Page 5

that extends from Fort Hood west to San Angelo.

Besides a large land area, Longbow also requires a new training plan. "This is a giant leap forward, so we had to re-write the whole programme, starting about two years ago," said Col Winn Noyes, commander of the 21st. The results are new ranges and systems than can accommodate Longbow and push it to its limits.

A major advantage with the 21st Cavalry is the level of attention that a battalion will receive, according to Col Noyes. Units have no other function aside from training and none of the routine distractions.

"Their focus is concentrated on training," Col Noyes said, "and most units leave here better trained than they will be at any other time."

A task of the 21st will be to collect and pass along what is learned from using Longbow.

"Lessons learned will help us to refine tactics and doctrine as we go," Col Noyes said. "It was very much the same for the 'A' model Apache when it was first fielded."

As an aviator, he is already sold on Longbow.

"It is everything we want an attack helicopter to do and it will do it better, faster and easier," Col Noyes said. "In addition, it links to the digital battlefield and to the command and control systems of any division, now and in the future. While the Army works on the digitised division and Army XXI, Longbow is here, and it is ready."

View from a hot cockpit

Longbow Apache began service life at Fort Hood, Texas, during a vicious summer heat wave. Shimmering thermal waves reflected from the tarmac as Chief Warrant Officer Skip Tackett slid into the rear seat of an AH-64D parked outside a 21st Cavalry Brigade hangar. Afternoon sunshine blazed through the canopy, writes **Dennis Steele**.

"Without the improved air conditioning system, we would be pheasants under glass, baking through the windscreen," he commented over the intercom.

He was initiating what pilots call a "hot cockpit" – not due to the weather but because the aircraft's instruments and systems are fully powered by an auxiliary unit while the engines remain shut down.

CWO Tackett quickly brought the aircraft to life, and the two main monitors at each pilot station dazzled with green images. (Full-color monitors are being installed in the US Army's second batch of Longbow.)

MASTER INSTRUCTOR

Skip Tackett is the 21st Cavalry's master gunner and standardisation instructor pilot... the Longbow instructor pilots' instructor pilot. He has 2,500 hours' flight time to his credit; about 1,600 in Apaches with almost 200 hours in the Longbow version as it moved from the Boeing factory into the general Army inventory.

"I love the Apache. I wouldn't fly anything else, not an F-16 or F-22," he said. "Those things can't hover."

Four years ago, Skip Tackett almost died in an Apache. "I got barbecued inside one," he quipped dryly.

In a refuelling accident, fuel was sucked into one of his aircraft's running engines. A fireball engulfed the helicopter and although he and his co-pilot escaped, both were badly burned.

"The accident did prove the value of good Army aviator training, however," Mr Tackett noted.

He said that with fire surrounding him, his brain cycled through all the emergency shutdown and egress procedures, seemingly long before he could physically conduct the manoeuvres.

Not wanting to waste time by

blowing the canopy panels, he flung the windscreen open and dived out head-first. "I spent about 2½ years healing from that," he said.

As the Longbow's systems powered up, CWO Tackett began explaining the features.

The twin programmable monitors show the tactical situation display (TSD), a series of 77 pages of digital information that can be accessed on either of the screens and in a variety of ways. There are no dials or gauges in the aircraft cockpit. Everything is displayed on monitors. Functions and information are accessed or changed using the grey buttons that frame the monitors.

"The TSD is probably the major Longbow upgrade," said Mr Tackett.

BATTLE MANAGEMENT

The display allows the pilots to perform "battle management" functions while controlling and navigating the aircraft. Highlights include a weaponry feature that shows the number of remaining missiles or rounds for the 30mm cannon, a display of the aircraft's fuel calculation and estimated remaining endurance, a display of the automatic fuel tank balancing system, and a variety of navigation aids and mission information.

"We can send digital messages to everybody or a specific aircraft, so if somebody's computer has a 'hiccup' and dumps everything, I can upload him from my aircraft and get him back into the fight."

"The biggest challenge is to get pilots to think in terms of being part of a com-

puter network and to manage all the information that is flowing through this thing."

The forward-looking infra-red display offers several thermal view options, from a straight-ahead view to an overhead perspective that shows, among other things, areas where the system would otherwise be blind and where a threat could be lurking.

Mr Tackett toggled the Longbow's fire control radar (FCR) display.

Although the aircraft was parked, the FCR still gathered and processed information on surrounding objects. It identified stationary aircraft parked nearby, and icons appeared on the monitor. On the far side of the airfield, automobiles and military vehicles were traveling on a road and the FCR displayed icons for moving wheeled and armoured vehicles.

An icon appeared for a fast-moving aircraft that could not be seen – probably a civil aircraft at a nearby airport.

Under combat conditions, the FCR immediately identifies fast-moving aircraft as high threats and selects them as the next objective. The FCR detects and prioritises targets according to their threat to the Longbow or their intrinsic value.

FAST KILLS

"I can launch a Hellfire missile just about as fast as I can move from target to target and have kills as fast as I can pull the trigger, but because the radar cannot distinguish between friend or foe, the pilot is the last check and balance in the system to ensure that he is firing at the right target."

A radar mounted below the FCR dome is the same as the one used in the Air Force's F-4 "Wild Weasel" aircraft, detecting and identifying radar threats for Longbow pilots and giving them 360-degree coverage.

"There is a lot of information to manage," CWO Tackett said, "and managing it is a perishable skill. If a pilot doesn't practise, the skill can be lost quickly."

"The Longbow has given us a lot of bonuses, but it created a training challenge because so much information is thrown at a pilot. From an Apache pilot's point of view, it is a very good aircraft – a significant upgrade."



Close-up: US Longbow Apache pilots have to become part of a computer network

First WAH-64 takes flight

Apache for the British Army came a big step closer when the first production WAH-64 attack helicopter made its maiden flight on September 25 and was handed over to GKN Westland, the UK prime contractor, three days later at Boeing's Mesa plant in Arizona.

The 30-minute flight, which included hover tests and rearward and forward flight, was the first by an Apache powered by Rolls-Royce Turbomeca RTM322 engines.

Dave Bauer, the Boeing test pilot who commanded the first flight, said: "The mission was essentially flawless. We accomplished all of our objectives and do not foresee any issues with this aircraft. It performs as promised."

GKN Westland will deliver the first WAH-

64 to the Army Air Corps in 2000. An order for 67 WAH-64s fitted with Longbow fire-control radars has been placed by the MoD.

The British Apache is a derivative of the US Army's AH-64D Longbow Apache, the next generation version of the combat-proven AH-64A model. In addition to its Rolls-Royce engines it includes a number of unique avionics systems.

Boeing is building eight aircraft and will partially assemble the remaining 59 at its Mesa plant. Final assembly, flight test, delivery and support will be undertaken by GKN Westland Helicopters at Yeovil. Major sub-contractors include Lockheed Martin and Rolls-Royce.

● The attack helicopter team has its own dedicated web page at www.army.mod.uk/ah/



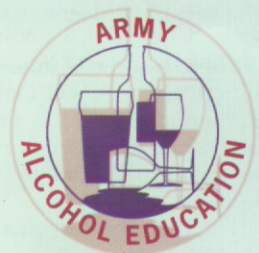
Hunter-killer: The highly-maneuvrable Apache AH-64D

**BALDRICK'S
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
TO THE TROUPS**



"I have a cunning plan..."

**"Don't let drink
get you into trouble
this Christmas"**



People, places, events

Tanks mark Armistice in Whitehall

A Challenger 2 and a 1918 Mark V rumbled through Whitehall during the Royal Tank Regiment's remembrance service at the Cenotaph on November 15.

To mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the First World War, when tanks first appeared on battlefields, the RTR has launched an appeal for a memorial on a site adjacent to Whitehall.

LCpl Kenneth Harkness, SG, sounded the *Last Post* from the roof of Horse Guards to signal the start of the two-minute silence at 11 o'clock on the 11th.

- The sundial memorial to Cpls Derek Woods and David Howes, murdered in Belfast after driving into an IRA funeral, has been rededicated following its relocation inside Gaza Barracks at Catterick Garrison.

- A memorial service was held in Germany for two crewmen of Gütersloh-based 1 Regiment AAC killed in a Lynx crash at Welling near Koblenz in September 1994. Memorial stones inscribed in English and German have been laid at the site of the accident.



Help at hand: Tpr Steven Newby, left, and Tpr Darren Hodgson with Jokic Desanka

Troops are lifeline to Bosnian widow

BRITISH soldiers have gone to the rescue of a frail and poverty-stricken Bosnian woman living alone in a derelict mountain hut.

Members of 1st Troop, D Squadron, The Light Dragoons, serving with NATO forces in Bosnia, have thrown a lifeline to 63-year-old Jokic Desanka by carrying food and water up to her primitive mud-floored home. She has lived in the tiny wood-and-brick structure all her life without power or water.

Born in the hut in 1939, she was imprisoned during the Second World War by the Croatian Army. She returned to the hut after the war and has scraped a living, collecting water from a stream 1.5km away at the bottom of a steep hill and relying on neighbours and relatives for food.

Now soldiers from 1st Troop have become her knights in shining armour, parking their Scimitar and Spartan vehicles at the foot of the

mountain and making the steep climb to the shack weighed down by supplies. Tpr Steven Newby said: "She's always happy despite the hard life she's had. We take an interpreter and she loves to chat to us."

The Light Dragoons arranged for Jokic to be checked by British Army medics and Capt Adrian East, RAMC, subsequently treated her for a stomach ulcer. The soldiers now plan to build a solid floor and provide a water bowser and tools to chop firewood for a tiny burner. They have already started moves to register her on the World Food programme so she is eligible for regular aid.

Lt Jamie Kyffin-Topp, Scots DG, attached to the Light Dragoons as 1st Troop leader said: "She has become something of a mother figure for the boys. She hugs them and treats them as though they are her sons. It's very rewarding to help someone who is so genuinely appreciative."

OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF

Maritime specialists diverted to Hurricane Mitch disaster area

TWENTY-FIVE men and women from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC based at Marchwood, Southampton were diverted to Honduras on board RFA *Sir Tristram* to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. All members of 51 Squadron, they were returning from an exercise in the Caribbean when the vessel received orders to sail to the disaster area.

- Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike has succeeded Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith as GOC Northern Ireland. He arrived at Army HQ at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, at the end of October. His last appointment was in Bosnia, where he was Director of Operations of SFOR. Lt Gen Smith is to be promoted general on becoming Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe at SHAPE in Belgium.

- Territorial Army soldiers from The Royal Wessex Yeomanry exercised at Verdun with French troops.

- For the first time in 50 years, Territorial Army soldiers from the 5th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets have exercised their right to the Freedom of Aylesbury.

- Naafi has opened a new shop for troops serving at Banja Luka in Bosnia and a pub-club called the Café Royal at Sarajevo.

- Eight hundred Regular and TA soldiers under the command of HQ 1st Reconnaissance Brigade exercised within an area bounded by Sennybridge, mid-Wales, Shrewsbury and Ross-on-Wye.

- Helicopters from 659 Squadron AAC based at Wattisham, Suffolk practised their skills in flying heavy underslung loads in mountainous areas by ferrying stone in the Brecon Beacons for the National Trust. The stone was used to repair eroded footpaths.

- A three-man team from HQ Quartermaster General was first home in the gruelling Cyprus Walkabout staged in high temperatures over a 90km route. A team from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment won the Silver Boot Trophy for the best island-based team, and the Poachers also finished third as well as taking the novice title.

- The alliance between the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Royal Brunei Land Forces, first approved in 1971, was renewed during the Queen's State Visit at a parade attended by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh and the Sultan of Brunei.

- Brig Trevor Minter was inducted as the 207th Deputy Constable of Dover Castle on November 10 at a ceremony dating back to the reign of Henry V.



Maj (Retd) Colin Stephens, left, explains the history of the cap badge to Sig Brad McCallum, 19, youngest member of 280 Signal (UK) Squadron, after the unit paraded at its barracks at St Tönis in Germany to receive medals for service in Bosnia. Maj Stephens, 63, has served 45 years with the Royal Signals. He is the camp commandant.

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People, places, events

Your *Soldier* is a winner . . . again

SOLDIER is in the awards . . . again. Six months after being named the best internal magazine in Britain, it has received two more top accolades.

The August issue, which included the most comprehensive coverage of the Strategic Defence Review, took top place in the Internal Publications (Public) category of the British Asso-

ciation of Communicators in Business South West Region's awards for excellence. And to complete a memorable first year for the new-look monthly *Soldier*, Graham Bound's adrenalin-inducing article on caving ("Going underground" in our Who Dares series, April) was judged the best-written feature of the year.

Scots Guardsmen back in uniform

GUARDSMEN Mark Fisher and James Wright are to be retained by the Army and will continue their regimental careers with the Scots Guards.

Both men were released from prison in September after serving six years, having been found guilty of murdering Peter McBride, a Roman Catholic teenager, in Belfast.

The decision to let them resume their military careers was taken by the Army Board under the chairmanship of Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson.

A statement by the MoD said the fullest consideration had been given by the Board to all relevant circumstances, including representations from the guardsmen themselves and the views of Peter McBride's family.

The Board's reasons for its decision were:

- That the Army itself was responsible for the training of the guardsmen as soldiers and for preparing them for

operations and deployment to Northern Ireland;

- The security situation in the area of the incident at the time was tense and the guardsmen's unit had suffered a recent fatal casualty;

- The guardsmen had shown contrition for their action, which they admitted was an error of judgement which they very much regretted;

- They had paid the price for their action with a lengthy prison sentence during which time their behaviour had been exemplary;

- Their continued loyalty to the Army and their previously unblemished military records;

- Their wish to continue serving their country.

Gdsm Fisher and Wright will return to regimental duty after re-training at the infantry training school at Catterick, North Yorkshire.



Gdsm Wright



Gdsm Fisher

By royal appointment

A Gurkha officer serving at the Infantry Training Centre Wales in Brecon has been made a Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer, one of only two such appointments each year.

Capt (QGO) Dharambhadur Gurung, right, 2iC of the Gurkha Demonstration Company at Brecon, will carry out royal duties for a 12-month period during which he will attend 20 investiture ceremonies at Buckingham Palace as well as many other events, including charity work in support of the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

The third generation of his family to attain the rank of Gurkha officer, Capt Dharam joined the Army in 1973 and was commissioned in 1993.



If the bush hat fits . . .

Capt Glen Marshall, Royal Australian Army, tries his bush hat on **Cpl Angela Lee** as she prepared for a trip Down Under with 15 (North East) Brigade. The brigade represented the UK in a major command post exercise - Rainbow Serpent - in Brisbane. Brigades from Australia, Canada and America also took part. In all, 130 Regular and TA soldiers from the UK flew to Brisbane for the six-day CPX, the latest in a series. The last was in Fort Lewis two years ago and the next will be in the UK in 2000.



Operational honours

HONOURS and awards to members of the Armed Forces for service in Northern Ireland between October 1997 and March 1998, the former Yugoslavia between December 1997 and June 1998, and for miscellaneous worldwide operations:

Northern Ireland

CBE: Col S J Knapper MBE MC, late Staffords.

OBE: Col J D Deverell, late R Irish; Col P F Everson, late Int Corps; Lt Col K G McCann MBE, R Irish.

MBE: Maj D S Bruce, DWR; Maj E P Davies LI; Maj D P Dolling, R Signals; WO1 C M Evans RLC; CSgt B E Harris PWRR; Capt J M Ireland, R Irish; Maj R A Jeffries QLR; Lt Col N J Yeowell, R Signals.

Mid: CSgt P D Headington, Para.

QCB: Capt R A Baker RLC; CSgt M A Billingham, Para; Capt T A W Burgess RLC;

Cpl R A Day, Cheshire; Sgt N Forde, R Irish; Sgt M Goodchild, Gren Gds; Sgt P J Morley, Cheshire; SSgt G J Owens RLC.

QCBA: WO2 G A Fraser AAC; Lt Col H C Northam MBE, AAC.

QCVS: WO2 S D Ashley, Gren Gds; Sgt N J Beale RA; Sgt L Burgess SG; SSgt A G Cook, Int Cook; Capt P M Cook AAC; LCpl A J Dickson, Int Corps; Capt P E Fensome, R Irish; Lt Col R H Gash, Para; Capt A M Gay RGBW; Capt F M J Harban RAMC; Sgt W R Irvine, R Irish; Col A C Jackson, late KOSB; Spr M L Kingshott RE; Maj P J Lodge, Para; Rev C A MacLeod RACHD; Capt J E Mahaffy, R Irish; WO2 K P McHugh AGC(RMP); CSgt H A McLeod RS; Maj D R Munro, Hldrs; CSgt M D Patrick PWRR; Lt Col M P Rayner PWRR; Maj F Toland, Para; Maj R M Walker RS; LCpl D M Williams RE.

Former Yugoslavia

OBE: Lt Col R M Iron KORBR.

MBE: Maj M P Maer PWRR; Maj H W Pritchard KORBR; Cpl T M Seers RLC; Capt C M Simpson RLC TA.

ARRC: Cpl K A Boon QARANC; Capt A L McCourt QARANC.

QCB: SSgt A L Hamilton RE.

QCVS: Sgt A M Connelly AGC(RMP); Maj B J Dalton, R Signals; Lt Col A J Foster MBE, RA; LCpl C Gardiner, Int Corps; WO2 J E Gibson, R Signals; Maj J M E Hazel, Int Corps; Cpl P A Hynard, R Signals; Maj P G Mitchell REME; Maj G S Morris AGC(ETS); Maj Gen A R D Pringle CBE, late RGJ; Lt Col M J Sheen RLC TA; WO2 B R Stoddart AGC(OPS); Lt Col J W R Thorn RE; Brig E J Torrens-Spence, late RDG.

Op Baronet (Georgia)

MBE: Maj C A Luckham PWRR.

Miscellaneous

QCB: SSgt I B Duncan AGC(OPS); Cpl M E Kieras RE; Cpl P P McCarten RE.

People, places, events

HCR's big effort in Bosnia earns Sword of Peace

SOLDIERS of the Household Cavalry Regiment watched proudly as the Queen presented them with the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for 1997 for their outstanding achievements in Bosnia.

Supported by their families at home in Windsor, officers and soldiers of the HCR collected and distributed equipment, food, fuel and clothing to large numbers of refugees whose livelihoods and homes had been destroyed by the civil war.

The HCR's sword was the 100th to be presented since the first in 1967 to honour significant contributions by the Armed Forces to peaceful relations in the communities in which they are serving. Lt Col Barney White Spinner,

commanding HCR, received the sword from the Queen at a ceremony held in Combermere Barracks, Windsor. Also present was the Princess Royal, the newly-appointed Colonel of the Blues and Royals; Maj Gen Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard, Colonel of the Life Guards; and Maj Gen Evelyn Webb-Carter, GOC London District and a former GOC of NATO's British-led Multi-National Division in south-west Bosnia.

Almost every soldier of the HCR served for six months in former Yugoslavia between 1996 and 1997. C Squadron was based near Glamoc in Bosnia, while B and then A Squadron, Life Guards, followed by D Squadron of the Blues and Royals, served in turn at Banja Luka.

Naafi profits soar

NAAFI has announced profits of £7.9 million after losses in 1995-96 of £4.2m. The dramatic turn-round in its fortunes will mean an increased dividend to the Services of £2.9m, or £108 for each person in uniform.

News of the improvement in trading follows a radical shake-up by Naafi to re-focus and modernise. During the past year the organisation, which is now concentrating on its core activities of providing retail and leisure facilities to the Armed Forces, has invested £17m in shops and clubs worldwide.

Announcing the results, Naafi's Allan Vaughan said: "Our aim is to provide a world-class, value-for-money service to the Armed Forces, and we believe tremendous progress has been made in the past 18 months towards achieving this goal."



Cat nap: Maj David Clift prepares to operate on Sultan, the lion with a huge hernia

Op Lion leaves old Sultan feeling roar

MAJ David Clift, the only British military vet on Cyprus, usually has his hands full with Service dogs, family pets and horses. So performing a hernia operation on a rather large lion was something out of the ordinary.

When Sultan, a mature lion living in a Cypriot zoo, needed treatment, Maj Clift, who is the officer commanding Cyprus Defence Animal Support Unit (CDASU), was asked to assist vet John Knight from the London-based Born Free organisation.

Army technician Cpl Jason Barnes played an important part in the proceedings by anaesthetising the beast after Mr Knight had knocked it out with a tranquilliser dart.

Maj Clift performed most of the surgery and the CDASU provided equipment and drugs. As well as dealing with the melon-sized hernia, the

team also removed two other minor growths before stitching Sultan up.

"I have never done any surgery on wildlife like that before," said Maj Clift, who had just returned from a military vets' conference in South Africa, where he took part in a wildlife game capture.

Having restored Sultan to health, the team was asked to treat one of the zoo's bears which had a rusted tethering ring in its nose. The ring was removed and the bear was given a manicure and pedicure and a thorough medical examination. All in a day's work, really, for the Army vets.

Prince Charles promoted

THE Prince of Wales was promoted major general to coincide with his 50th birthday on November 14. He will have two-star rank in all three Services of the Armed Forces.

IN BRIEF

DEFENCE Secretary George Robertson and his Argentine counterpart, Jorge Dominguez, signed a Defence Memorandum of Understanding at Lancaster House. British and Argentine forces currently work together for the United Nations in Cyprus, Bosnia and Kuwait.

● Soldiers from 29 Field Squadron RE have dismantled the sangar on the

Crumlin Road in Belfast. The heavily-fortified observation post covered one of the most dangerous interface areas between the loyalist Shankill Road and the republican Ardoyne. The squadron has moved on to similar projects in the province.

● Seventy light recce tracked vehicles of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers returned from their final exercise of the year in

Army districts down to three

THE map of Britain's Army headquarters and districts in the United Kingdom is to be re-drawn by the year 2000.

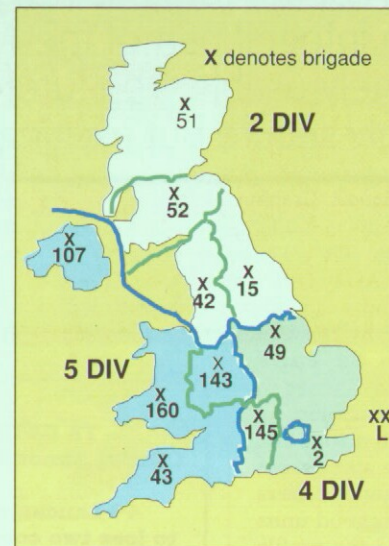
The present six districts will be reduced to three, with headquarters located at Edinburgh (HQ 2 Division), Shrewsbury (HQ 5 Division) and Aldershot (HQ 4 Division).

Plans for a more streamlined and efficient structure were announced by Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson. HQs will be responsible for higher administration of Army units in the north of England and Scotland; Wales and the west of England; and south-east England.

Army HQ Scotland will stay in Edinburgh, but with the closure of the divisional HQ in York will become HQ 2 Div with responsibility for Scotland and part of north England. The south-west of England will become the new responsibility of HQ 5 Div in Shrewsbury, and HQ 4 Div's responsibilities will extend as far as Chilwell, Nottinghamshire.

The first move will take place on April 1 next year when 43 (Wessex) Brigade in Exeter and HQ Salisbury Plain Area fall under the command of HQ 5 Div at Shrewsbury, and 42 (NW) Brigade at Preston moves to HQ Army Scotland. At the same time 107 Ulster Brigade, a Territorial Army training brigade in Ballymena, will fall under the responsibility of HQ 5 Div.

The HQ of 3 Division at Bulford, Wiltshire, will be freed of its adminis-



trative and regional responsibilities to become a deployable or "fly-away" division. By September 1 next year, HQ 43 Bde will have moved from Exeter to Bulford – the only headquarters physically to move during the restructuring – and HQ Salisbury Plain area will be disbanded.

On April 1, 2000, HQ 2 Div will close in York and move to Edinburgh. HQ 15 (NE) Bde will remain in York, coming under the command of the new HQ in Edinburgh. At the same time 49 (Eastern) Bde based in Chilwell will join 4 Div in Aldershot.

HQ London District will be reduced in status to a brigade headquarters, but will still be called a district and will retain its major general.

Northern Ireland: more troops go home

FOUR hundred troops from 16 Regiment RA are the latest to be withdrawn from Northern Ireland under the continuing review of security in the Province. The soldiers of the air defence regiment (deployed in an infantry role in the province) have

returned to their barracks at Woolwich, London, but remain under the command of GOC Northern Ireland.

A further dividend of the improving situation has been the closure of three permanent vehicle checkpoints in Bessbrook village, Armagh.

Pembrokeshire to their base near Dereham in Norfolk on the re-opened Mid-Norfolk Railway. The rail link will reduce the need for the regiment to use tank transporters on congested roads.

● The Army has launched a campaign to recruit ethnic minority officers. At the end of August the figure for ethnic minority recruiting was 2.1 per cent, an

increase of 1.7 per cent on March. The aim is to reach five per cent by 2002.

● A delegation of Russians visited Northern Ireland to take part in a series of bilateral exercises designed to train military personnel of former Warsaw Treaty states in arms control inspection and evaluation techniques. Their programme included a visit to 9 R Irish at Antrim.

Flourish of field marshals



A rare gathering of five field marshals attended a parade and church service in the Royal Memorial Chapel at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. From left are **Fd Marshals Sir John Stanier, Lord Inge, Lord Carver, Lord Vincent and Sir Roland Gibbs**. They watched the Sovereign's Banner Parade at which 8 Platoon from Gaza Company were presented with the banner, then attended a service of dedication for a memorial window to Fd Marshal Sir James Cassels.

Picture: Chris Fletcher

Welcome to Dad's place!



Kristina Wright, pictured with a reception committee from the Coldstream Guards, became one of the first new recruits to cross the threshold of Exeter's Armed Forces Careers Office following its £290,000 refurbishment. It was appropriate that the 18-year-old, who plans a career in the Royal Military Police, should be greeted with some fanfare because her father, **WO1 Bob Wright RLC**, manages the new-look office. Earlier, **LSgt Roger Coates**, left, and **Sgt Dougie Neal** of the Coldstream Guards, were in position to greet the Mayor of Exeter, **Cllr Barry McNamara**, as he arrived for the official opening of the careers office.

At-a-glance guide to the big changes

CHANGES will result in the trimming of the Territorial Army to 41,200, or a reduction of 12,800 on today's strength of 54,000.

The biggest reduction in major units will be felt in the infantry, where 33 battalions are being reduced to 15.

Other decisions:

- **Royal Armoured Corps** regiments reducing from seven to four. Three new yeomanry regiments will train on Challenger 2 and one on recce. Two squadrons will join the nuclear, biological and chemical organisation.

- **Royal Artillery** regiments reducing from nine to five.

- **Royal Signals** regiments increasing from 11 to 12.

- **Special Air Service** unchanged at two regiments.

- **Army Air Corps** unchanged at one regiment.

- **Royal Logistic Corps** reducing from 19 regiments to 14.

- **Royal Army Medical Corps** changing from 11 hospitals and seven field ambulances to 11 hospitals, two field ambulances, one ambulance regiment and five medical squadrons.

- **Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers** reducing from five battalions to four.

- **Intelligence Corps** remaining unchanged at one battalion.

- **University Officers' Training Corps** unchanged at 19.

- **Bands** reducing from 24 to 14.

- **Airborne capability** reducing from two battalions to one.

- **Royal Engineers** will be reduced from nine to five regiments. They will retain specialist roles such as bomb disposal and air support. The small and remote Jersey Field Squadron survives.

- **Army Cadet Forces** will not be cut and those sharing TA facilities which are due to be closed will be helped to move to new premises.

Time to pick up the gauntlet

'The TA of the future is not just a general reserve but an integral part of the Army's capability, genuinely usable. The future for our TA soldiers is not only secure but exciting.' – Gen Sir Roger Wheeler

Report: Graham Bound

DESPITE the tabloids' witty headlines, it is not "ta ta, TA". The message that the Territorial Army is to be an integral part of the Army's capability was hammered out loudly by the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, in a letter to all TA commanders.

Although no one can escape the unpleasant facts that good soldiers will be lost, good units closed, and the profile of the Army lowered in some parts of the country, the new TA will be a leaner force with a role much more relevant to the unstable and often unpredictable post-Cold War world.

The new-look TA will undoubtedly be more demanding on its members – but it will be more satisfying, too. Part-time soldiers can expect to lose their "weekend warrior" image and be seen more as an integral part of the Regular Army. They can also expect to be called upon even in crises which fall short of a direct threat to the United Kingdom.

From now on, more emphasis will be placed on specialist units and less on the infantry and yeomanry which have less relevance now that the direct threat of the Cold War to Britain is part of history.

In black and white, the MoD's plans appear uncompromising, at times even unsympathetic, but in this hugely complex panorama of reorganisation there is a good degree of flexibility and a wish to see as many part-time soldiers as possible retained in some capacity.

Soldiers will be helped to find other vacancies and entire companies and squadrons from redundant infantry and yeomanry battalions may be used to bring surviving battalions up to full strength.

It is going to be tough, but Britain's part-time soldiers will have to pick up the gauntlet thrown down by Defence Secretary George Robertson. He said: "It is only by facing up to the new challenges of

the post-Cold War world that we will be able to build a Territorial Army for the future."

The changes that affect you...

THE PLANNED changes to the TA are complex and there is not sufficient space here to list the hundreds of moves, re-roles, redundancies and amalgamations, but by now commanding officers will have informed their soldiers of the specific changes that affect them. These are the main decisions and broad principles which will affect all soldiers in the new-style Territorial Army.



Reduction in manpower. The total number of TA soldiers will be reduced from 54,000 to 41,200, but surviving units will be trained and equipped for a more modern role.

Some TA centres to go. Of the 455 centres, 368 (four out of five) will remain. The TA's ability to promote a positive image for the Army and to give communities vital emergency help when necessary have been recognised, encouraging a wide distribution of centres across the country. But areas which were home to infantry and yeomanry units are likely to notice the most difference.

Demanding timetable. By July 1, 1999 most converted, reorganised or re-rolled units



Where do we go from here? TA soldiers will soon be re-modelling their forces for the future

will have taken on their new responsibilities and changed titles if necessary. The new TA will be fully operational by April 1, 2000.

Transferring to new posts. There is a commitment to keep as many soldiers from redundant units as possible. Options facing them will include transfer to the Regular Army, to surviving or new TA units or to other reserve arms. Qualified staff may be encouraged to become cadet force instructors. A nationwide chain of "job shops" will use the internet and the Land Command intranet to help those affected.

Mobilisation. While the new Territorial Army will be tailored towards involvement in the many smaller conflicts which have become characteristic of the post-Cold War world, the TA structure and its dispersed centres will remain the focal points for general mobilisation in time of crisis.

Shift away from traditional roles. Infantry, yeomanry and support combat services will be reduced or re-tasked. Specialist units which provide operational support for the Regular Army, such as logistic experts, signallers and medical services, will be enhanced.

Compulsory call-up. There will be greater use of individual TA soldiers in Regular units and, when time allows, entire units may be deployed on expeditionary operations from peacekeeping to high-intensity warfare. For the first time since the Second World War, it will be possible to call on TA units for compulsory service, either in Britain or overseas.

New infantry battalions, old cap badges. The 33 current infantry battalions will be replaced by 15 new battalions totalling 7,100. The cap badges of scrapped battalions will be retained at company level.

Increased role for Army Medical Services. The TA's medical services will increase in strength by 2,000, and it is planned that a 500-strong ambulance regiment will be created. Soldiers serving in the yeomanry and infantry will be encouraged to train as combat medical technicians.

Improved readiness. Currently most TA units are at a low state of readiness: as long as six months might be required to reach full strength and readiness. This will be improved considerably to allow for full TA involvement in crises which may arise suddenly. This means the MoD must plan for full staffing and resourcing at all times.

New Training and Mobilisation Centre. The likelihood that units will face compulsory operational deployment overseas will make extra demands on administration and this is being improved. A reserve training and mobilisation centre will handle preparation for operations and post operational matters.

Improved career management and training. Career development will take on greater importance. A reserves' manning and career management division at the Army Personnel Centre, Glasgow will help to plan training and development. Many more courses will lead to civilian qualifications such as National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs).

New recruiting drive. Despite the reduction in numbers, recruiting efforts will increase. While recruitment to 90 per cent of unit establishment has been generally acceptable in the past, the target will now be 100 per cent. Up to 11,000 new volunteers will be required each year. The recruitment drive will be stepped-up with a £1.7 million advertising campaign in February and a nationwide open day.

Up-to-date equipment. There is a determination that the new TA will be properly resourced. It is seen as vital for volunteer soldiers to be trained on modern weapons systems such as the latest generation of the Rapier and AS90 artillery, if they are to integrate fully with the Regular Army.

Life is not so simple, say regional chairmen

THE 14 Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Associations are the bodies which oversee the TA. Soldier asked two TAVRA chairmen for their opinions about the review.

Col Richard Putnam, Chairman South East Region and Vice-Chairman of the Council of TAVRAs

"We face cuts of some 42 per cent; that's worse than any other region. We were rocked by the Secretary of State's announcement. However, the assurance given by Mr Robert-

son about a better resourced and usable TA provides some balance.

"Although the perception now is that the UK no longer faces an obvious and powerful threat, life is not so simple. Some of the potential threats are just as dangerous to our world as any that were faced earlier this century. That said, the TA has never let the country down and I have no doubt that it will get down and get on with the post-SDR reorganisation with its usual dedication.

"We will be doing our best to see that the

promises made by the Secretary of State regarding resources are delivered and that the reduced reserve forces are sufficient to meet the nation's defence needs."

Col Tony Sellon, Chairman Greater London TAVRA

"Our TAVRA's opinion is that the Strategic Defence Review was very constructive for the Regular Army, but less so for the TA. Our perception is that the original figure of about 40,000 troops was arrived at to enable the

books to be balanced. It is of course right that the size and structure of the TA should be kept under review, but what has happened here is a classic example of 'situating the appreciation', the starting point for which was 'think of a number'.

"This review is based on the premise that we would receive intelligence about a major world war at least three years in advance, giving us time to mobilise. We are left with too little scope for mobilisation in the event that the planners have got it wrong."

Exercise report: Arrcade Fusion

ARRC on cyber-battlefield

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Terry Champion

"THESE people are trying to meet unachievable deadlines, and some of them might not have the sense of humour that you would like them to have..."

The journalists visiting the scene of Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps' principal annual exercise, Arrcade Fusion, had been warned. NATO's spearhead corps was to all intents and purposes on a war footing, coping with an international crisis. Inside the huge hangar-like structure near ARRC's permanent base in Mönchengladbach, the scene was one of frenetic activity, with a dozen or more vehicle-based control cells, each handling a vital set of assets, drawn up around the main headquarters.

Across the "bird table", the vast waist-high platform which dominated the nerve centre, was laid out a vivid representation of the theatre of operations, the fictional (but Balkan-sounding) territories of Zagros and Coraban. Friendly and enemy assets symbolised by red and blue flags were on the move as the battles ebbed and flowed.

Opposition Forces HQ, the enemy, were perilously close – indeed from their base in an adjacent hangar, they shared the allied lavatories. But this did not concern ARRC staff. Why should it? This was, after all, an exercise taking place mainly in cyberspace.

MANOEUVRES

A computer managed and adjudicated both enemy and allied manoeuvres in real time, in a way designed to place as much stress on the controllers as any field exercise.

That is not to say that no troops were manoeuvring. Working through computer links stretching over thousands of miles, the ARRC HQ introduced the unpredictable weaknesses and strengths of real troop deployments to the equation by controlling Italian and Greek divisions based in their own countries.

This remarkable blend of computer simulation and actual human activity is the key event in the annual training programme for this British-led and largely British-funded force. The nature of the exercise alters annually, reflecting the changing national make-up of the corps

NATO forces are ready to convert computer exercise into the real thing



and the political and military demands placed on NATO.

No two Arrcade Fusions are the same, and this year's principal innovations included a new computer link to NATO's dispersed air forces and the presence of liaison officers from Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. The three nations are expected to join NATO within a few years.

Involvement also of a team from the European Union's Strasbourg-based Euro Corps reflected a growing interest in the EU's military capability.

Nerve centre of the exercise was Abacus, the powerful main-frame computer from which cables, monitors and keyboards radiated to all units of the allied and enemy forces. Abacus simulated the ebb and flow of a campaign almost perfectly, gathering data from all 2,200 units of ARRC and calcu-

Exercise Arrcade Fusion began to follow a plot uncannily similar to a recent Hollywood hit film when senior commanders were asked to "save Private Brian".

The exercise sub-scenario was designed to test the abilities of the Media Operations cell and front-line commanders to deal with unexpected pressure from "back home."

According to the plot, Pte Brian's two brothers, also soldiers,

Saving Pte Brian

had been killed in the Gulf and Bosnia and now his mother was afraid that her remaining son would die in the "Zagros War". The tabloid press and TV had taken up the call to save him.

Pte Brian and his mum demanded serious attention. Commanders had to consider the practicalities and likely publicity ramifications

lating whether command decisions, deployments and actions were successful.

Abacus kept the soldiers on their toes for seven long days and nights of all too

of both ignoring and respecting the press demands.

The ARRC was undoubtedly able to "find" the fictional Pte Brian more efficiently than Steven Spielberg's crew located Pte Ryan, but the exercise supervisors are tight-lipped about whether the young soldier was eventually sent home. Nevertheless, the all-knowing Abacus probably delivered a verdict about this skirmish on the public relations front line.

changes in strategy with little or no notice.

Despite the stresses and realism of Arrcade Fusion, Maj Osborne cautioned

Space men: Greek soldiers taking part in the cyber exercise in a hangar at Mönchengladbach monitor one of the many computers

real time. Maj Gerry Osborne AAC explained that he and his American and Canadian colleagues running the ground attack aircraft of the Deep Attack cell had been constantly planning their strikes up to 48 hours in advance and frequently responded to

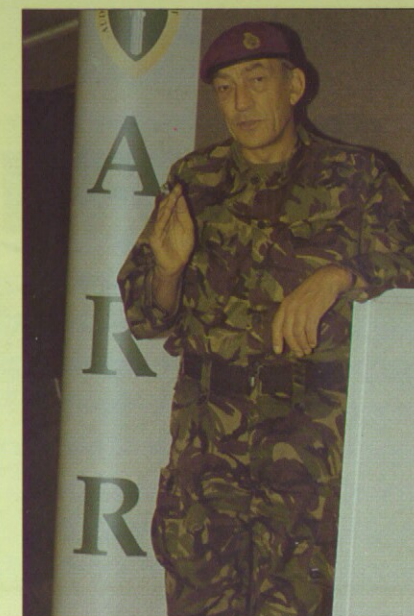
against over-dependence on the simulations. "I don't think you'll ever replicate the fear, motivation and nervousness of being in a real situation," he said.

A "real situation" is by no means inconceivable.

FIRST IN

ARRC's multi-national units were the first into Bosnia when NATO deployed there, and, during a brief visit to the exercise, Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson said that in such roles the ARRC remains "crucially important". He added: "No one should be under the misapprehension that NATO forces are not ready to make this (exercise) real if necessary."

If and when the call-out comes, the lessons of Arrcade Fusion may prove very useful.



In command: Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson

Ten things you should know about NATO's spearhead force:

- Currently heading ARRC is Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson, a veteran of senior commands in Northern Ireland and Bosnia.

- Four hundred men and women from 12 nations are based at its permanent HQ in Rheindahlen, Germany.

- ARRC does not "own" any troops. The ten combat divisions and support forces are national assets assigned to it by governments.

- Fighting units are prepared to deploy within days to any theatre as required by NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe. Missions may range from peace-keeping to high-intensity warfare.

- Britain is ARRC's "framework nation", providing a three-star commanding officer and a two-star general as Chief of Staff.

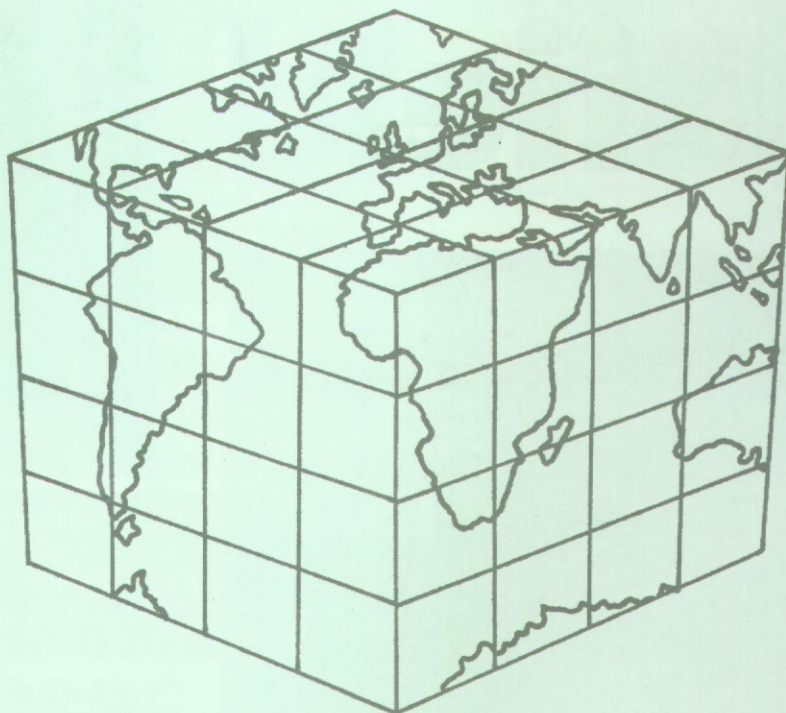
- Corps structure is modelled on the British Army and Britain provides the majority of ARRC's funds.

- Arrcade Fusion is ARRC's main annual exercise, the importance of which was summed-up by Lt Gen Jackson: "We have to be prepared and being prepared means training."

- ARRC has been successfully tested in action. In 1995 it deployed to Bosnia, taking command of the peace implementation force in Operation Joint Endeavour. This was NATO's first operational deployment.

- Its motto is "Trained and ready; prepared; multinational and proven".

- Assets at ARRC's disposal include formidable units and weapons systems. Among them: airborne soldiers, Apache attack helicopters, heavy artillery, battle tanks, and transport helicopters.



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Smart move by ABF tops the bill

Special circus show turns the spotlight on Army's charity

GARY Smart has been in the circus business all his life but had never seen an audience like this one, writes **Karen Moseley**.

For one special night the seats in the Big Top at Richmond were packed with hundreds of soldiers, recruits and Army children. The occasion was a show donated by Smart's Circus in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF).

Mr Smart served for four years with the 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, a Territorial Army unit based in London. Since leaving in 1978 he has kept his links with the Army and the ABF.

"It was the most fantastic audience we have ever played to, quite unbelievable," he said. "It was like a football match with the home team winning. Soldiers are renowned for enjoying being entertained and the artistes were on a real high."

Aim of the evening was to raise funds and increase awareness of the ABF among the serving Army. Sergeants' messes within easy travelling distance of London were offered blocks of 50 seats, primarily for children, in return for a donation of £750.

Among those who responded were 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards; 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC; 16 Regiment RLC; Army Training Regiment Pirbright; and the Royal Military School of Music.

As a result of their support and some individual donations, more than £5,000



Picture: Mike Weston

Rock on: Gary Smart, who put on the ABF Big Top event, with his daughter Charlotte

was raised for the ABF, the Army's central charity which, in partnership with corps and regimental benevolent funds, helps those in real need in the Army and ex-Army communities.

International circus stars, many of them from Russia, dazzled the audience with juggling, acrobatic and flying trapeze acts. No animals take part and the show is a blend of theatre and circus skills.

TRUMPETERS

Circus glitter was enhanced by the scarlet and gold of the Band of the Life Guards and its trumpeters.

In June, the ABF launched an awareness campaign throughout the Army. The aim was to get all ranks to "think ABF" when raising money for or giving to charity. Sergeants' messes have an important role to play in encouraging

junior ranks to fund-raise, not only for local charities, but also for their own charity.

The success of the circus night was a tribute to the fund-raisers of all ranks who took part.

Mr Smart, who regularly raises money for the ABF at his amusement park in Littlehampton, came up with the idea of a special "Big Top" fund-raising event for the charity.

"There are a lot of vogue charities at the moment," he explained. "I had a friend in 10 Para who was killed on exercise and I got round to thinking about what the Army does for everyone else, and how little people know about the Army Benevolent Fund. The charity pound is so sought after these days, this was a good way to get the ABF more widely-known."

War graves commission puts 1.7m names on internet

MEMBERS of the public have access via the Internet to the burial and commemoration records of 1.7 million names in the care of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission following the launch of an electronic database last month.

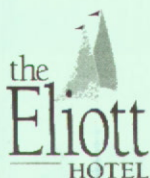
The commission's Debt of Honour Register will allow anyone to trace the exact location of a soldier's grave or the precise position of a name on any memorial built to honour members of the forces of the Commonwealth who died in the

two world wars. The web site may be found at www.cwgc.org

Events linked to the 80th anniversary of the Armistice focused particular attention on the work of the commission, which lists in its 79th annual report several major projects undertaken during the past year. These included using hydraulic platforms and high-pressure water hoses to blast 15 years of atmospheric grime off the 45ft-high Thiepval Memorial in northern France. Ovillers Military Ceme-

tary in France and Krakow (Rakowicki) War Cemetery in Poland were totally renovated, while major work was necessary to prevent further land loss from cemeteries on the Gallipoli peninsula.

Closer to home, name panels from the graffiti-defaced Tower Hamlets Memorial were moved to a new, more secure, location. So damaged had it become that the old memorial, which was subjected to persistent vandalism, was no longer considered a fitting tribute to the fallen.



GIBRALTAR

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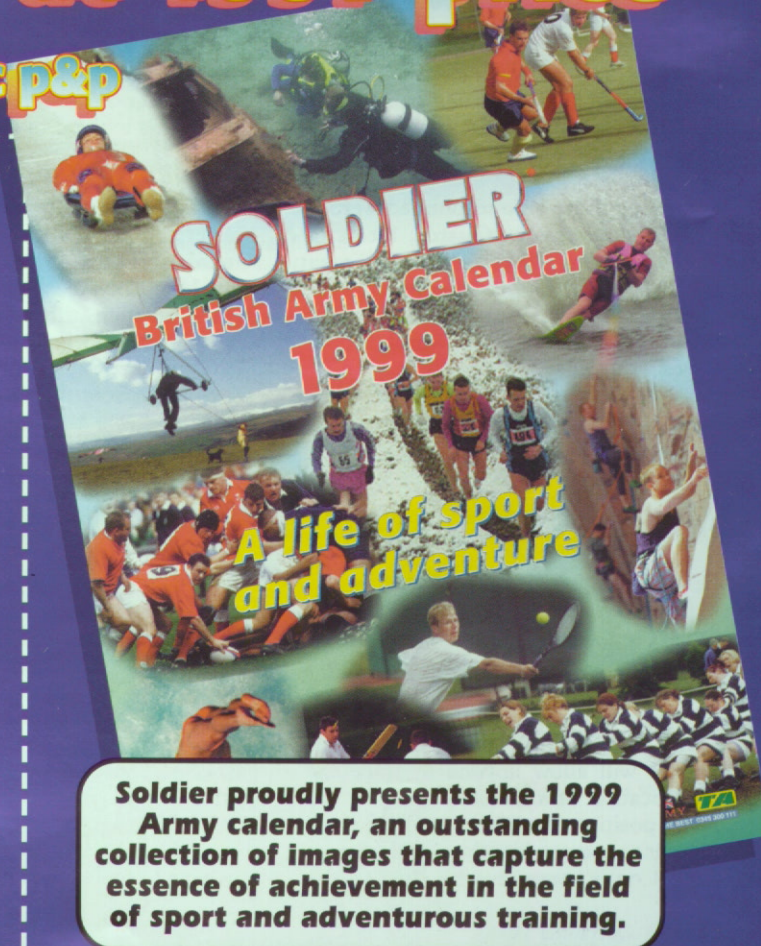
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Soldier proudly presents the 1999 Army calendar, an outstanding collection of images that capture the essence of achievement in the field of sport and adventurous training.

Nostalgia

Greetings from yesteryear

Victorian military cards are a colourful link with our military ancestry

Report: David Watkins

THE Victorians, inventors of the ubiquitous Christmas card, knew they were on to a good thing. Many of their seasonal greetings were miniature works of art in themselves, painted by leading artists of the day.

Fortunately for us, many have survived. They were so treasured as decorative offerings that many cards were preserved in family albums.

Some of the most elegant carry loyal seasonal messages from regiments of the British Army. Many specially-designed Christmas cards were produced for regiments in the early 1900s and proved to be immensely popular. Dress uniforms of the soldiers of Queen Victoria were so colourful that leading printers were keen to feature them cards, certain that they would be best-sellers.

Two printers in particular were responsible for the popularity of military cards: Gale and Polden of Aldershot and Stewart and Woolf of Hatton Garden, London. Both were renowned for the quality of the glossy pictures they published.

Victorian military cards were often designed by members of the regiments who were adept as painters and artists. Others were the work of official war artists who would spend many weeks with a unit, observing and recording in detail

the uniforms of the period. Such was the demand for quality that leading members of the Royal Academy were commissioned, as were many highly-acclaimed artists of the time. They were paid handsomely to deliver new colours and effects for the cards.

Unfortunately for modern collectors, most RA members signed their work with pseudonyms rather than their professional names, so very little is known about the artists themselves.

the uniforms of the period.

Such was the demand for quality that leading members of the Royal Academy were commissioned, as were many highly-acclaimed artists of the time. They were paid handsomely to deliver new colours and effects for the cards.

Unfortunately for modern collectors, most RA members signed their work with pseudonyms rather than their professional names, so very little is known about the artists themselves.



Most prolific by far was Harry Payne, a member of the Royal Society for Painters in Watercolours. He became well-known for producing highly-detailed action pictures of the British Army, with titles such as "Charge of the 1st Life Guards" and "Defenders of the Empire". A Regular soldier with more than 25 years in uniform, he was also one of the foremost military artists of the time.

Such was the quality of his work that Queen Victoria herself is known to have bought his cards.

Christmas cards were initially the preserve of the officers' mess, but they caught on to such an extent that eventually all ranks were buying them to send to family and friends.

Many examples reflect the pride of the times in verse, such as these words from a card of the Highlanders printed in the 1880s:

Lads of the plaid and kilt, all hail!

*Britain greets you on this day.
May old Christmas never fail
To find you hearty, brisk and gay,
And may you all its pleasures share
With comrades true, and lasses fair.*

Military Christmas cards are particularly fascinating because they illuminate history through their association with Britain's fighting regiments, and as such they are much sought after by collectors.

The cards crop up at specialist exhibitions around the country, giving everyone a chance to collect them. Kept in albums or framed in groups, they are colourful yet inexpensive reminders of the nation's military past.

Issues

You may be eligible for a war pension

Step-by-step guide to claiming

IF you are injured, sick or disabled and you think your disability has been caused or made worse by service in the Armed Forces, or during a time of war, you may be eligible for a war pension.

And if you are a widow or dependant of someone who dies as a result of their service, you may also be able to get a pension.

Eligibility extends to anyone who has served in HM Forces, including the Ulster Defence Regiment (Royal Irish Regiment), the Home Guard and the nursing and auxiliary services; to civilians disabled by civil defence volunteer service or enemy action during the Second World War; merchant seamen and coastguards; and members of Polish Forces under British command from 1939-45.

MAKE A CLAIM

To make a claim, ring the War Pensions Helpline on 01253 858 858 or write to the War Pensions Agency, Norcross, Blackpool FY5 3WP.

As soon as a claim is received, Service details are checked and the MoD is asked to make its medical records available. It may be necessary for the agency to contact the applicant's GP and it may ask for an examination by a Department of Social Security doctor.

If your disablement is assessed at 20 per cent or more, you are entitled to a weekly pension; less than that and you will get a lump sum. You can ask for a review at any time if the condition worsens, or if other war or Service-related health problems arise.

ANY PROBLEM

The War Pensioners' Welfare Service can help with any welfare problem, irrespective of whether it is related to war pensions or the disability. Each office is linked directly to the war pensions computer system and can provide speedy answers to queries about claims and entitlements. The service is personal, free and confidential.

To find your nearest WPWS office, telephone the helpline number or look in your local directory under War Pensions Agency.

In brief

Students who have Scottish parents and want to do something during their "gap year" before going on to university the following year may be eligible for 1999 Caley Gap Scholarships worth up to £1,000 for projects in Africa and America. For more details contact John Horsfield on 0181 421 8845 or at the Royal Caley

Festive fears

If you would like to share a problem, write to Cari c/o Soldier, or BFBS, BFPO 786.

Dear Cari, I am dreading Christmas. My parents are visiting and my father is so embarrassing. He talks loudly and is always correcting people. Do I have to introduce him to friends? - Cpl F (BFG).

Cari replies: I'm not sure you should be trying to hide your father. I assume you love him and enjoy his company. If not, you should gently make it clear that you have other plans and that you will only see him before or after Christmas. Perhaps you endure him for the sake of your mother. Is he embarrassing, or a bully? Give your friends the chance to see you on your own over Christmas and talk to your mother honestly. Tell her you will no longer be bullied. And if he is a well-meaning bore, remember most of us think we have embarrassing relatives. Friends may listen to yours if you promise to listen to theirs.

Dear Cari, My mother-in-law is staying with us at Christmas. She thinks my husband married beneath him and makes it clear she thinks I am not good enough and am holding back his career. Anything I say only makes it worse and it is creating tension between my husband and me. - Mrs P (UK).

Christmas can be a challenge. A combination of family tensions and increased alcohol consumption can lead to volatile situations. Alcohol can also trigger arguments with friends and neighbours, escalating tense situations into something much worse. Christmas is also a time when emotions run high. Unhappiness, like loneliness, can seem worse around this time.

If you are not looking forward to the season, try not to build up your expecta-

Cari replies: The most important factor here is your relationship with your husband. Remember that he did not choose his mother, but he did choose you. Loyalty will make him defend his mother if you attack her, and that will hurt your feelings. So try to stop yourself doing it. Complain to a trusted friend if you need to get it off your chest. Tactfully suggest that your husband might like to spend time alone with his mother and arrange plenty of things that you have to do on your own.

When you are in your mother-in-law's company make a conscious decision to smile and be gracious, whatever she says. Allow yourself to feel smug about it. Unpleasant people can sometimes be embarrassed out of their unkindness in the face of unremitting niceness. She is with you for only a short time so it's not worth spoiling your relationship with your husband just to get the better of her.



Cari Roberts

Dear Cari, My neighbours get drunk and row into the early hours. I don't want my children to hear the swearing. - Mrs H (UK).

Cari replies: This is bullying of another form. No one should have to put up with anti-social behaviour by their neighbours. They are unlikely to respond to reasoned argument and you will only get more stressed as the situation escalates. You need detailed advice, which you can get from your housing contact, your HIVE, the Army Families Federation or the Army Families Advice Bureau. There is no reason why you and your children should be exposed to this behaviour and you must not suffer it in silence.

tions. Many people believe something magical should be happening and are depressed and disappointed when it does not. If you get very low, don't forget the helplines, such as the ones run by the Samaritans and SSAFA Forces Help. If you are one of the many fortunate people who are looking forward to a happy time with family and friends, I hope it goes well for you. Here's to 1999!

Cari comments

● Cari Roberts presents Counterpoint on BFBS Radio

donian Educational Trust, 80a High Street, Bushey, Herts WD2 3DE, or via e-mail on RCET@caleybushey.demon.co.uk

● An enterprising new group has been formed at a Sussex hospital with a reputation for innovative after-care. People who have

suffered heart problems and who maintain an interest in athletics may wish to receive the newsletter of the Association of Cardiac Athletes. Sending an A5 sae to ASCA, c/o Mr Lars Andrews, Cardiac Technician, Cardiology Dept, Conquest Hospital, The Ridge, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 7RD.

Should women be in the front line?

SHOULD women be allowed to serve in tanks and the front line? Now you can have your say... in complete confidence. But you need to make those views known in the next few weeks.

Soldiers of all ranks have the chance to contribute to one of the most important studies into the future employment of women in the Army. It is being undertaken by staff at the Directorate of Manning (Army), Upavon, who want to hear from men and women serving in or connected with the Regular Army and Territorial Army.

Views are being sought on the Army's present policy on the employment of women. Is it correct or should be changed? In particular, the Army needs to find out the likely effects on the way it does its job should women be allowed to serve in the Household Cavalry, the Royal Armoured Corps and the Infantry. And should they be allowed to if they want to?

The study will seek to identify what linkage there is, if any,

between combat effectiveness and gender. Are there any problems with men and women working together in an Army environment? Are there jobs which women can do better than men?

Col Robert Aitken, Colonel Employment Policy (Army), who is leading the study team, said the subject of women's employment in the Army was one on which most people had a view. "We need to hear those views if we are to identify all the issues involved. Any thoughts, from anyone in the Army, on this subject, would be most welcome. We would

particularly like to hear personally from commanders at all levels who have experience of command in mixed formations and units."

All correspondence will be treated in the strictest confidence, so send your views, by the end of December, to Gender Study, Building 278, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Wilts SN9 6BE. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

You have your say

Insurance failed to meet the bill

A RETIRED officer has written with a salutary tale of an insurance policy that failed to live up to expectations.

About a year ago Flt Lt Mike Tily, RAF (Retd), who has a small Service pension, bought a house and took out mortgage care insurance to cover his payments in the event of accident, sickness or unemployment (ASU) rendering him unable to meet the premiums.

Subsequently he had need to claim under the policy, only to be told by the administrators that the insurance was not valid because he was receiving a pension.

The issuers, Capital Bank, a member of the Bank of Scotland Group, confirmed that under their Evidence of Cover this was correct.

The relevant section, headed Termination of Benefit, stated: "Any benefit being paid will cease automatically upon any of the following events: non-payment of the appropriate premium; the date you retire from your normal occupation (unless due to disability); the date you become in receipt of State Retirement Benefit or an occupational pension; or the redemption of your mortgage."

Mr Tily writes: "I am sure there are many Servicemen buying their own homes in anticipation of their retirement from HM Forces, and many will be per-

suaded to take out ASU insurance by insurance salesmen. For serving personnel this is absolutely worthless."

In his case the ASU element cost £36 a month and "was not worth the paper it was printed on."

He says he was not warned that his pension would invalidate the policy and there was nothing in the proposal form which might have alerted him or brought the problem to light.

An NCO, for example, who begins a second career on leaving the Army could jeopardise his benefit because he had retired from his "normal" occupation.

Capital Bank has offered to refund Mr Tily's premiums in full.

"However," Mr Tily told Soldier, "that does not serve the purpose for which I paid the insurance in the first place, and also had I not been placed in a position where I needed to claim against the insurance I could have paid the entire life of the insurance (total premiums £3,500) without realising that the insurance was, and is, worthless."

Mr Tily is currently pursuing a claim through the Lloyds Complaints Service and the Insurance Ombudsman and has promised to keep Soldier posted on further developments.



CSgt Kesharbahadur Ale, pictured above, is the first Gurkha soldier to receive a National Vocational Qualification. The former rifleman has been working at the Defence Medical Services Centre at Ash Vale, Aldershot since 1996 and is now a competent tutor to NVQ level three.

When he returned to his home in West Nepal in October after 19 years in the Army he was intending to establish a centre to teach first aid skills to his countrymen. Before leaving Ash Vale, Kesh - as he was known to his colleagues - worked as a paramedic with the Surrey Ambulance Service.

He received his award from Brig Ronnie Brown, Commander Defence Medical Training Organisation.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 581 8684
Army Families Federation 01980 615525
Confidential support lines:
UK 0800 731 4880
Germany 0131 827 395
Cyprus 080 91065
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 0181 543 6333
Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065
RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725
Samaritans 0345 90 90 90
Service Children's Education 01980 618244
Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358
SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783
Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302
War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858
WRVS 01235 442954

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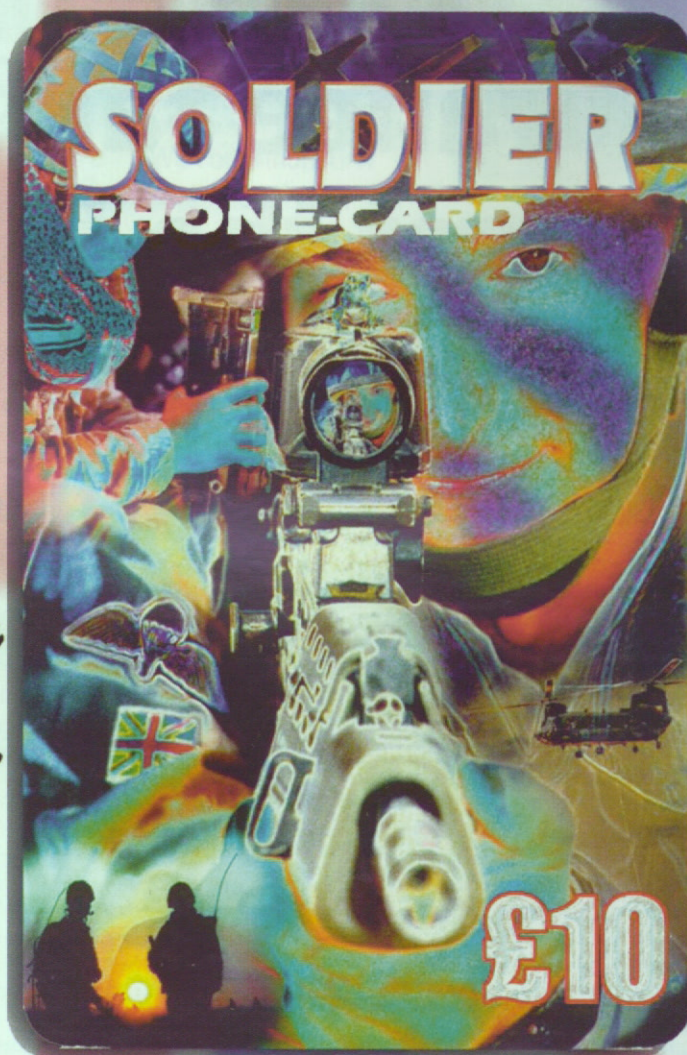
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Monty's bodyguard is world champion

Report: Lt Col Stuart Green

ONE of Britain's lesser-known sporting giants, ex-paratrooper Jim Woolgar, is the international World Masters ski-ing champion . . . at the age of 81.

Just as astonishing is the fact that he taught himself to ski when he was well into his sixties. And to take part in championship events, this former soldier has spent the past 15 years living in a camper van which he drives the length and breadth of Europe, from Andorra to Switzerland and from Italy to Austria.

Last winter Jim entered all 11 World Masters events at different European venues, competing in slalom, giant slalom and Super G events. Competitors are grouped according to age, with the youngest falling into the 55-60 category.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

There are no such divisions in the British championships, however, where every skier over 55 competes head-to-head. Despite that, since he first entered in 1990, Jim Woolgar has been good enough to get into the British national team on merit.

At an age when his contemporaries have long reached for their carpet slippers, the tall, fit Second World War veteran trains for two hours a day, mainly on Austrian glaciers, to improve his technique, style and speed.

Jim won seven out of 22 World Masters races last season and finished second on nine occasions, results which guaranteed

Veteran skier and windsurfer still going strong at 81



Sporting star: ex-paratrooper Jim Woolgar

him the world championship title in the over-80 group. Most of those he races against were born and raised in the mountains, so Jim decided that if he couldn't beat them he would join them. Consequently he spends much of his time in the Alps, living in his camper van. He is now on this third vehicle.

As befits an ex-sergeant major, his race

entries are neatly filed, along with all his personal correspondence, in large brown envelopes stored in grocery boxes.

What he cannot find room for in his van are the dozens of trophies he has won. They are distributed for safe keeping in various British Army mountain training centres around the Bavarian town of Sonthofen, where his two sons work for the Army and which he uses as a base.

Jim's Army career was a little out of the ordinary. In 1939 he was serving with The Royal Sussex Regiment in Egypt and on the outbreak of war immediately volunteered for a transfer to Airborne Forces. In June 1944 he was parachuted into Normandy in the early hours of D-Day and was part of the force which seized the bridges over the Caen Canal.

RHINE CROSSINGS

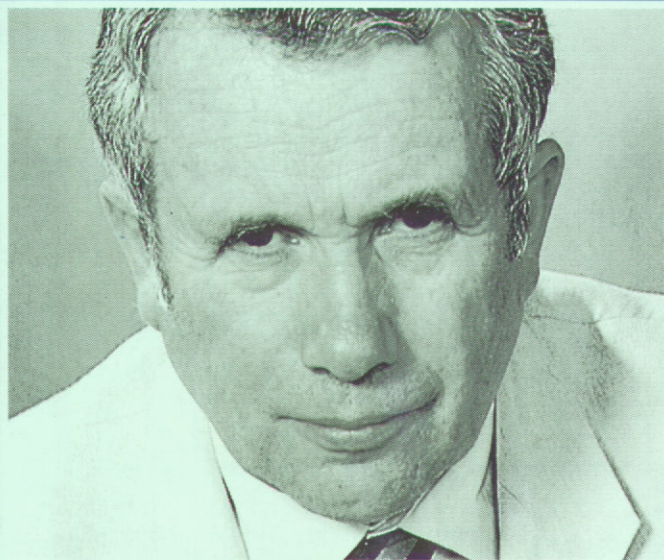
He won the Military Medal, and selection as one of Fd Marshal Montgomery's escorts in Normandy. He later took part in the Rhine crossings.

Since the war, Jim has spent much of his life in southern Germany. At the end of each skiing season he drives to the north of the country to indulge his other great sporting passion – windsurfing. Most summers his camper can be found parked close to a beach or lake.

During warmer weather he is often joined by his 70-year-old girlfriend, Louisa . . . although not for the moment. Her family is said to believe she is seeing too much of the nomadic Englishman . . .



Monty's men: Fd Marshal Montgomery, centre, with his escorts in Normandy in 1944. Jim Woolgar is on the far left of the middle row



"Constantly dealing with mutilated bodies in N. Ireland is enough to give anybody nightmares and depression".

As a war correspondent I've seen, first hand, the most appalling injuries and mental pressures our Armed Forces endure, leaving thousands of them crippled for life both physically and mentally.

Ray, as a young NCO in Northern Ireland is just one of them.

The task of dealing with horrifically mutilated bodies finally took its toll leaving him trapped in a world of nightmares and severe depression.

Combat Stress helps care for victims like Ray with support in the community together with treatment and respite care in one of its three nursing homes.

Unfortunately, tender loving care doesn't come cheap these days, it all costs money. Something Combat Stress is short of. Please help. A donation (no matter how small) can make such a difference to those who have given so much.

Thank you.

Martin Ball



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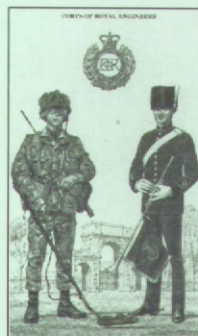
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Chuckle with Chip



"In this regiment one can be forgiven anything ... except perhaps making a hash of the Wives' Club dinner arrangements!"



"Look ... he can't hang about there all night!"



"I assume that was one of the Assault Pioneers' homemade crackers?"



"Well maybe I had jussht a liddle nip!"

Colour the pilot

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Terry Champion
and David Dare Jones

WHEN the fleet of shiny new civilian-owned training helicopters clattered into RAF Shawbury just over 18 months ago, it was clear that a new era in British military helicopter training had begun.

As Air Marshal Sir John Willis, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, officially declared the new tri-Service Defence Helicopter Flying School (DHFS) open, flying instructors throughout the Services said goodbye to the venerable little Gazelle training aircraft and to the fiercely independent days of single-Service basic training. They welcomed new close inter-Service co-operation, civilian partners and some seriously sophisticated modern training aircraft.

Most accepted the new order with enthusiasm, but there were some who were sceptical of its almost revolutionary nature. The old system had worked well enough, they said. Why change it?

DUPLICATION

The reasons were real enough and mainly economic. Front Line First, the 1994 defence study tasked to improve efficiency and savings throughout the Forces without compromising the ability to fight, had highlighted helicopter pilot training as an area where the three Services duplicated expensive facilities and skills. Furthermore, the analysts suggested, it was also an area in which private sector funding and management – the much-vaunted Private Finance Initiative – might have a viable role.

The changes happened quickly. Army and Navy training establishments at Middle Wallop and Culdrose in Cornwall were closed and many of the assets disposed of or transferred to the establishment at RAF Shawbury, which soon began to assume a dark "purple" hue.

At the base near Shrewsbury in Shropshire, uniformed trainers, administrators and other personnel were soon joined by the staff of FBS, a private sector joint venture created specifically to bid for the contract and now deeply involved in making the concept a reality.

purple

At a unique military-civilian establishment, trainee pilots from the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force are learning how to fly a new generation of helicopters – and how to work together



A range of impressive skills and experience within the partner companies had won FBS the contract; not surprising considering their fields of expertise and experience. Then, as now, Flight Refuelling Aviation provided the skills necessary to supply fuel under a carefully managed budget, while Bristows Helicopters, the North Sea oil and Falklands aviation veterans, provided flying skills and maintenance know-how. SERco Defence

systems, already extensively involved in the management of MoD facilities, brought other military-civilian management skills.

Since then, civilians have co-operated with the school's military establishment at all levels and in most areas, but notably in teaching. Around 40 per cent of the flight instructors and ground school educators are civilians.

But the truly unique character of this new establishment hits home when one realises that the aircraft buzzing around the apron, hovering (sometimes somewhat shakily) under the control of student pilots, and making touch-and-go landings on the green fields surrounding the base, are entirely civilian-owned.

The 26 single-engined Squirrels, used for basic training, and the nine larger Griffins employed for multi-engine conversion and search-and-rescue instruction, are the property of FBS and are leased to the school at an hourly rate which includes support and maintenance.

This means significant savings compared with the days when 79 ageing military Gazelles and their ground crews took on the brunt of the Services' training needs. Civilian partners enjoy far more freedom to shop around for the best subcontracting services and sell surplus flying hours to private clients. Income from such users reduces charges to the DHFS.

The school is a busy place. Running at full capacity, staff can train 275 students a

year, the majority of whom are Army, but who include a smattering of students from other nations. Specialist courses train navigators, load-masters and rescue experts, and there is even a special familiarisation course for pilots of vertical take-off Harriers – they find the helicopters useful for perfecting their hovering techniques.

However, the vast majority of students are newcomers to flying. Having just completed the fixed-wing flying course in the Slingsby Firefly light aircraft, they spend their first three weeks at Shawbury in the classroom, getting to grips with such basics as helicopter theory, meteorology and aircraft captaincy.

Then it is on to the single-engine basic rotary wing course and the Squirrels of 660 Squadron, which bears the name of an Army Air Corps squadron. Most Army pilots will complete their time at DHFS with an advanced rotary-wing course conducted by 705 Squadron (after the former RN Helicopter School), also using Squirrels. RAF and Navy trainees may go on to convert to twin-engine flying in the Griffins or perfect the special skills needed for search-and-rescue work.

ENTHUSIASTIC

Maj David Meyer, an instructor commanding 660 Squadron, is enthusiastic about both the Squirrel and the trainee pilots. He describes the helicopter as a sophisticated machine and a welcome replacement to the old Gazelle. It is, he points out, a larger aircraft, making the transition to the Army's Lynx (the logical next step for most Army pilots) relatively easy.

And the modern training aircraft are appropriate for the even greater demands which will come soon. With a cautionary look which emphasises the changing

times in Army aviation, he said: "Bear in mind that in a few years Army pilots will be going straight into Apache. They need to wise up to the fact that they are going to be using some advanced airframes."

The training programme is heavy, with a typical day consisting of several hours in the air, regular tests and evening study. It is a heavy work-load, but the trainers allow for different rates of learning. "There are very few students who are natural pilots," said Maj Meyer, "so there is a sympathetic approach from the staff. We have the latitude to give them a degree of extra time, but it is limited, because ultimately if a pilot can't do it, he can't stay on the course."

Such an approach appears to pay dividends: more than 90 per cent of students fly solo in ten to 12 hours of instruction, and the drop-out rate is almost negligible.

Civilian instructor Ian Macfarlane teaches navigation and aircraft operations at the ground school. A one-time RAF flyer, he is impressed by the way traditional Service barriers are broken down. "I get a great deal of satisfaction from seeing how well joint Services operations work.

Ready for take off: The Eurocopter Squirrel basic training helicopters, above left, await their students and instructors on the pan at RAF Shawbury

Flying Squirrel: In the hands of a student pilot, one of the civilian-owned trainers, above, hovers over north Wales

Maj David Meyer, left: "In a few years Army pilots will be going into Apache"

From day one they are all on one course. Ranks don't matter that much, and their Service doesn't matter at all."

Indeed, according to the school Commandant, Col Mike O'Donoghue, this integration is a principal goal of the DHFS. "Our aim is to blend everyone into a purple pilot; to see that each has a good understanding of the other Services and what makes them tick."

The full relevance of this combined approach could not have been appreciated when the flying school was created. Then, no one had anticipated the outcome of this year's Strategic Defence Review, but, as it happens, the school's ethic has fitted in perfectly with one of the study's most important initiatives: the Joint Helicopter Command. Over the next few years, many of the tank-busters of the Army, the commando movers of the Navy and the heavy-lifters of the RAF will be coming together under a joint command. Inter-operability will be vital.

Fortunately for those planning the helicopter forces of the future, today's new pilots know that tri-Service is the only way to fly.



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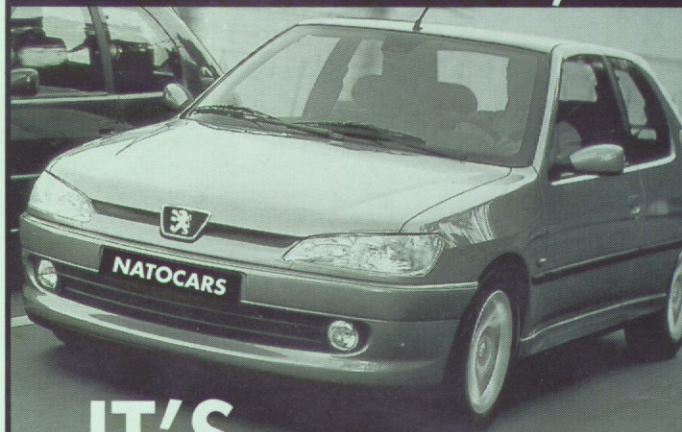
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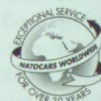
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STPUSD2

From Westminster to Wapping

A monthly digest of what's being said in Parliament and the Press

Troop dinners make for a meaty debate

BEEF supplied to members of the Armed Forces stationed in the United Kingdom is 100 per cent British, Defence Secretary George Robertson revealed in a defence debate in the House of Commons last month. But the same does not apply to the lamb which appears on the plates of Servicemen and women.

Asked by MP David Kidney if the lamb put on soldiers' dinner tables might also be exclusively British, the Defence Secretary said he wished this were possible.

"British lamb is the best in the world. I used to help to rear it, and I want British troops to eat it. I hope the industry will compete to get it on troop canteen plates."

The problem, apparently, is that the MoD's requirement is for frozen meat while the industry supplies the bulk of its lamb in Britain fresh or chilled. Discussions are going on to find "the best way to get the maximum of British lamb on to British forces' plates".

MPs also learned that 100 per cent of the pork and 50 per cent of the bacon eaten by British forces is home-grown.

In a written answer regarding meat purchases for troops stationed in the Falklands, Defence Under-Secretary John Spellar said beef was predominantly Australian, New Zealand and Uruguayan in origin, while 65 per cent of lamb supplied was sourced from New Zealand and Australia, with the remainder from Uruguay.

Incidentally, forces deployed overseas do not get British-produced beef because of the continuing export ban imposed by the European Commission.

Questioned on **millennium compliance** of defence computer systems, Mr Robertson said about 35 per cent of those requiring rectification had already been corrected "and we expect 80 per cent to be fixed by autumn 1999". The MoD is spending £200 million addressing the problems for technology that could arise over the year 2000.

Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson said in the same debate that between April 1 last year and March 31 this year, 117 recruits

had identified themselves as being of **ethnic minority background**, representing 1.4 per cent of the total intake.

First results from one of two MoD-funded studies into the health of **Gulf War veterans** are expected by the turn of the year, Defence Minister Lord Gilbert told the Lords. He said figures indicated that approximately 400 deaths have occurred among the 53,000 Gulf veterans since April 1, 1991.

The number of Army personnel injured during service in Northern Ireland during the past 30 years is 6,069, the Armed Forces Minister said in a written answer. The figure is for the period Aug 1969-Oct 31, 1998.

Other points from Parliament:

□ The Army has 30 military bands today. In 1979 it had 79.

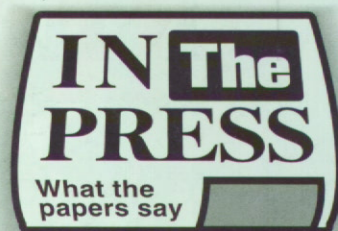
□ The issue of homosexuality and the Armed Forces will be reviewed in the current Parliament as part of policy reviews undertaken in preparation for the passage of the next Armed Forces Bill due in 2001.

□ As at October 27, Army Air Corps squadrons had a shortfall of 44 trained pilots in a total establishment of 544.

□ The cost of maintaining the garrison in the Falkland Islands in 1998-99 is expected to be just over £70 million and is likely to continue to be of this order in each of the next five years.

□ Since April 1994, legal fees and disbursements relating to common-law compensation claims submitted by current and former Service personnel have totalled nearly £27 million.

□ By mid-October, 624 personnel had left the Army on medical grounds this year. Last year 1,046 were medically discharged, 1,186 the previous year.



□ The Army is to relax strict rules banning married soldiers from having affairs. Squadries will be allowed flings with married civilians "in some circumstances". Illicit love between married officers and subordinates will still mean automatic dismissal. — *Sun*

□ The battlefields of the First World War disgorged one of their last and most legendary monsters... an almost perfectly preserved British 26-ton tank. It was found by a metal detector in a field at Flesquières in northern France. — *Guardian*

□ An 80-year-old mass grave of British Servicemen is believed to have been found in a field near the town of Kandalaksha, south of Murmansk in northern Russia. They are said to be casualties of Britain's contribution to the international intervention force assembled in 1918 in a covert attempt to reverse the Russian revolution. — *Guardian*

□ Compensation awards to Servicewomen who sued the Armed Forces after they were dismissed for becoming pregnant have cost the taxpayer £58 million. One was awarded £455,000. The list of payments for all cases, including bullying and training accidents as well as pregnancy, totalled £70 million last year. — *Independent*

□ Army engineers helped to "free" a 1936 Ford 10 from a back garden at Hindhead, Surrey where it had been parked for 28 years, long enough for trees and shrubs to grow up around it. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ The Army and police are working together on contingency plans to cope with a possible emergency caused by the millennium bug. The Army could provide air support and other help to move police from hot-spot to hot-spot if emergency services and other computer-controlled networks collapse. — *Financial Times*

● Readers are reminded that views expressed or reported in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence

It's 'no' again to Suez medal, but veterans vow to fight on

AFTER long and careful consideration, Defence Under-Secretary John Spellar has told campaigners he can find no grounds for reopening the case to award a medal for service in the Suez Canal Zone between 1951 and 1954.

He said in a letter to MP Andrew Bennett, who took the campaigners' case to him: "I have seen no new evidence that would persuade me to recommend that we overturn the decisions made at the time and following the various reviews since 1990.

"I know this will come as a bitter disappointment to those who have campaigned for so long."

Mr Spellar asked the Army's Historical Branch to conduct the latest examination of documents after he was presented with a 20,000-signature petition in March by a Suez medal delegation led by Col Pip Newton, who died in October.

Gen Sir Brian Robertson, C-in-C Middle East Land Forces, originally raised the question of a medal in the early 1950s but

no award was made. In the 1990s three Adjutants General have conducted reviews but in each case retrospective recognition was ruled out.

Campaigner Chas Golder, a former WO1 RCT, vowed the battle would go on and added: "Can you recollect the Japanese officer Lt Onada, who was found on the island of Lubong 30 years after the Second World War, refusing to believe it was over and that his side had lost? Well, he is my role model."

● Campaign goes on — Mailbag, Page 63

Hitting just the right note

What better way for children brought up in the troubles of Northern Ireland to see a different face of the British Army than to give them a foot-stomping, rollicking good concert?

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE last notes of the *Monty Python's Flying Circus* theme rang around the school hall as hundreds of young faces looked expectantly at the stage.

It was the beginning of a lively concert by the Band of the Irish Guards, who were on a week-long KAPE (Keeping the Army in the Public Eye) tour in Northern Ireland. The band, which had split into three sections for the tour, was visiting 30 schools in the province.

In between music from Barnum and Gershwin, Irish tunes on bagpipes and snappy rhythms on drums, the children heard from members of the six-strong KAPE team what it was like to have a career in the Army.

TAPPING FEET

Even the most cynical teenagers, fed a constant diet of music from groups such as Oasis and Manic Street Preachers, found themselves clapping hands, tapping feet and cheering.

The Band's Director of Music, Maj Andrew Chatburn, resplendent in his frock coat, called pupils up on the stage to play percussion instruments and even coaxed teachers to join in the fun by conducting the music themselves.

This was recruiting, Northern Ireland-style. Despite security restrictions, the



That's the way to do it: Maj Andrew Chatburn tutors a pupil in the art of conducting



If the hat fits: Gdsm Gilbert Reid with pupil David Hamilton

band has been visiting the province with enormous success for more than 20 years, continuing through the worst of the troubles. Recruiting, too, has continued unabated, with a steady stream entering the Royal Irish Regiment, the Irish regiments of the Royal Armoured Corps and the Irish Guards.

"These KAPE tours are very important to us," said Capt Laurie Windle, the Army Careers Adviser (Soldiers) from the Recruiting and Liaison Staff in Northern Ireland.

"The band, divided into three sections, visits six schools a day and comes together in the evenings to play concerts for charity. It's been an outstanding success, reaching audiences of 10,000 upwards.

"It shows local people there is more to the British Army than what they see on the streets of Belfast. It's difficult to recruit in the high street as we are behind the wire, so we have to go out into the community."



Playing in harmony: The bands of the Irish Guards and the Royal Ulster Constabulary at Belfast's Ulster Hall, raising £5,000 for cancer relief

Capt Windle spends much of his time speaking to schools about careers in the Army, and arranges the band's programme. One of his main difficulties is that out of a target audience of 22,000, half are in the Catholic community.

PERSONAL CALLS

"All Roman Catholic schools receive every letter and information pack and I personally call and offer my services," he explained. "To date their response has been they would like to see the Army in their schools, but the Board of Governors thinks it inappropriate at the present time.

"But on the band and KAPE tours the principals of the Protestant schools are asked to invite their neighbouring Catholic school, and we've had a little bit of success with that. We will persevere."

The band's evening concerts raised money for charity as well as awareness of the Army. One of the highlights was a

concert at the Ulster Hall in Belfast where the Irish Guards were joined by the Band of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Royal Ulster Constabulary Ladies' Choir. The evening raised more than £5,000 for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Capt Windle, who has been in the Irish Guards for 31 years, has been responsible for recruiting soldiers from Northern Ireland into the Army for two years. He set up Project First Step which has been designed to offer 15- to 18-year-olds a one-day personal development course.

It consists of three two-hour exercises covering psychometric testing, physical evaluation and basic team skills. The course has proved so successful it is now run from four centres in Portadown, Omagh, Ballykelly and Holywood.

If children show particular interest in a specific aspect of the Army, Capt Windle will organise work experience for them in that unit. He also goes to schools to help out with interview techniques and filling

in job application forms. Not, he points out, for any military recruiting reason, but just to help the many careers teachers he is on such good terms with. Schools are also invited to send between four and



Rapt concentration: LCpl Dave Bulmer

eight pupils on a five-day residential Look at Life course at Ballykinler Training Camp.

A challenging programme of military activities gives students a good insight into Army life.

In 1996 the Northern Ireland Army Leavers' Course, which was the forerunner of similar courses throughout the UK, was started. The course lasts for 40 weeks at Depot Royal Irish in Ballymena.

"Our core priority is recruiting Irish people into Irish regiments," said Lt Col John Moody, the head of Army Recruiting in Northern Ireland. "Considering the difficulties we do pretty well, and this year we have had nearly a 50 per cent increase in recruiting.

"But we have a small target audience and we really do have to fight for every soldier we recruit."

Judging from the enthusiasm from some of the children who went to speak to the KAPE team after the band performances, the fight, although not won, may be getting a little easier.



One trombone on parade: school children delighted by the playing of Sgt Vic Gilder

Wars of Rose's

Interview: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Terry Champion

GEN Sir Michael Rose feels there is a time in everyone's life when they "have to get out of their box and say something". Now it is his turn.

It is more than a year since the former SAS commander hung up his uniform for the last time. But the man who enters his publisher's office jacketless and smiling still has the unmistakable air of a soldier.

He also gives the impression of thoroughly enjoying his return to the limelight, having tucked himself away in the West Country for the past 12 months. The reason for this self-imposed exile was to write a book on what he calls one of the toughest, albeit most rewarding, challenges in his career: as commander of the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia in 1994.

Just how tough this must have been is put into context when one considers he served with the SAS in the Middle and Far East, commanded 22 SAS Regiment during the Falklands War and directed the rescue at the Iranian Embassy siege. Having spent years, by the very nature of that work, keeping in the shadowy back-ground, he suddenly found himself treading the boards at the centre of the world stage before exiting, left, a year later to somewhat muted applause.

CONTROVERSIAL

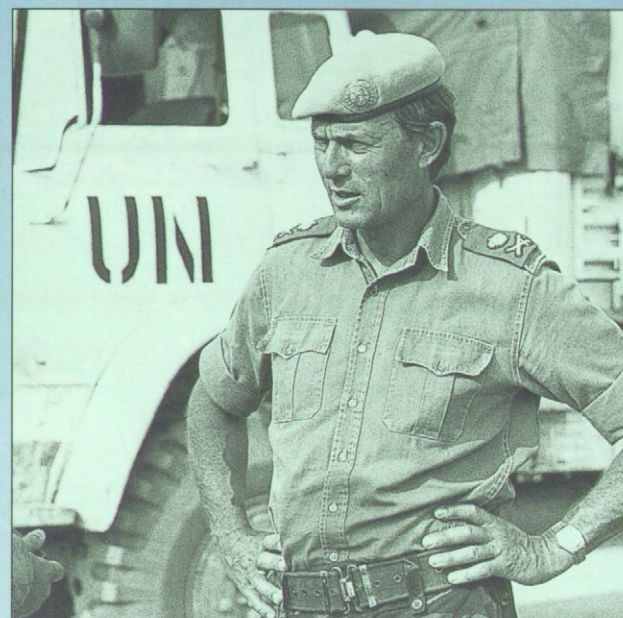
Serialisation in a Sunday newspaper and interviews on television have followed the publication of *Fighting for Peace*, ensuring Gen Rose's face is once again becoming familiar to the British public. It is a blunt and controversial book giving an account of one of the bloodiest and most ruthless civil wars the West has ever seen.

He agrees the book may raise a few eyebrows but he is adamant that the message in it gets across.

"It was bound to be controversial," he says. "I tried to draw sensible lessons from what was a very difficult experience for the UN in Bosnia, and to do that I had to disperse the propaganda and false views that were starting to develop."

"I also wanted to give an account of the heroic achievements of the 23,500 young men and women working voluntarily for peace in Bosnia so that other people could live better, or indeed, live at all. Many of them actually lost their lives in that mission, and to have people accuse the UN of presiding over 'genocide' was something I

The former Director Special Forces and UN military commander in Bosnia was the ultimate *Boy's Own* action soldier. Gen Sir Michael Rose talked to *Soldier* about Bosnia and his views on the Army



Warlord: Gen Rose during his time in former Yugoslavia

felt was really very wrong and needed correcting."

Gen Rose speaks with intense passion and, one senses even now, four years later, the frustration he felt with politicians, Balkan war lords, UN officials and journalists.

"How come people said we had blood on our hands?" he asks irritably. "It wasn't us, the peacekeepers, with blood on our hands, it was the people who were doing the atrocities."

"Peacekeepers at the end of the day are going to be the friends of nobody, other than the poor people who understand the reality. You never heard the mission criticised by the ordinary people of Bosnia, only by the warlords and the corrupt politicians running it, as well as their numerous supporters and friends elsewhere in the world."

The fluency with which he talks makes it easy to understand why he is sought after around the world as a lecturer on international affairs and peacekeeping.

He decided, half-way through his tour in Bosnia, to write the book after it became clear to him there were so many misconceptions about what the UN was doing there.

"Some silly rumour was floated that I was leaving the Army embittered, which was absolute nonsense," he says firmly. "When I came back from Bosnia I told Charles Guthrie [then Chief of the Gen-

eral Staff] I would do two years as Adjutant General and then I was going to go off and write a book about Bosnia before the subject got too cold, and that's what happened. Anyway I was getting to be too old to be in the Army."

Now aged 58, Gen Rose looks fitter than some men half his age, and has female journalists on national newspapers writing about his "piercing blue eyes". He laughs when reminded and points out that in fact they are green, opening them wide to emphasise the point.

After retiring in September last year, he and his wife Angela bought a house and four acres on the Dorset-Somerset border with the idea of restoring the potentially beautiful garden. The book has taken up so much of his time that the garden, he says ruefully, is still somewhat overgrown.

SCANDAL

Hugh Michael Rose was born in 1940 in India, where his father was commandant of the Staff College at Quetta. When he was in his early teens his mother caused great scandal by running off with the author John Masters, who at the time was a serving Gurkha officer. His father later remarried and the young Michael was sent to Cheltenham College, travelling to his parents and step-parents during holidays.

"My childhood might have seemed colourful to some people, but it was

quite normal to me," he says pointedly.

He joined the Territorial Army at school after discovering that if he did so he would be paid for the training afternoons and weekends he was obliged to do anyway for the Combined Cadet Force. He was eventually commissioned as a volunteer into The Gloucestershire Regiment.

Although, as he says, his reasons for joining the TA were more influenced by his pocket than high ideals, he nevertheless became one of its strongest supporters, and thinks the recently announced cuts are a "tragedy".

"I've always admired the TA and people who can run two jobs and manage their family. We reduce the TA below a certain level at our national peril. The Army needs a base around the country for its cadets, its own OTCs and recruitment purposes."

"The Regular Army depends on the TA more than people imagine," he emphasises. "Without them Regular battalions couldn't operate effectively. To say the role of the infantry and others has gone because of the end of the Cold War is very flawed logic."

NARROW

"We always said the TA must be a generalist organisation, capable of generally supporting the Regular Army. In things like peacekeeping you need large numbers of troops on the ground and you will only get those from the TA. To say you have to bin those people is such a narrow view of history."

Having read politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford and spent six months studying French at the Sorbonne, he attempted to join the Foreign Office as a diplomat but failed the interview board.

"I think they were quite right, actually," he muses, "because I would have made a very bad diplomat and become terribly impatient. I can be diplomatic if necessary, but to do it all the time might have been somewhat wearing on me."

He had consciously resisted going into the Army, but fate, it seems, decreed that was his lot. One day a "very nice old chap" he sailed with suddenly told him that he could not carry on drifting and had fixed up an interview for him with the Army. Thanks to his TA commission he was accepted into the Coldstream Guards in 1964, so becoming the fifth generation in his family to serve in khaki.

"I enjoyed the pure soldiering side of the Army," he reflects. "I found I took to it



Man of letters: Author and book – it may raise eyebrows, but dispenses propaganda

a more easily than I thought I would, but I suppose it's in the blood without knowing it."

Gen Rose feels the future is bright for the organisation he served for 34 years, but admits that there were blunders in the past.

"I think we now have very good quality young men and women coming into the Army," he said. "I'm glad the recruiting position has improved at last. I hope we don't make the same mistakes we made endlessly which caused terrible black holes to appear in our ranks."

"Mistakes such as closing the recruiting offices, reducing the amount of money for advertising, messing around with the training programme, and not giving people fair conditions and terms of service."

"We've always looked after the physical but for 45 years we have ignored the moral component, and without that you don't have an Army – you just have civilians in uniform. The ethos in the Army needs to be different from the civilian ethos and that is beginning to be recognised."

So the future of the Army looks brighter, but what of the general's future? There are no more books as yet in the pipeline, but he is already thinking about a script for a television series and will continue his lectures.

The four-acre garden looks likely to remain overgrown for some time yet.

Fighting for Peace by Gen Sir Michael Rose. Published by The Harvill Press, hardback, £18.

History revealed

Lost legacy of a bitter defeat

The Dardanelles were the focal point of a disastrous First World War campaign. Three Army divers have visited a foreign 'field' still littered with the debris of that costly battle

Report: Dennis Barnes
Pictures: Kevin Capon

SOME battlefields – the Somme, Ypres, the Normandy beaches – attract thousands of people. Others do not.

Historians, widows, old soldiers, school parties and the merely curious pay their own special homage to ground over which our armies have fought and died, yet there are places of military importance which are hidden from sight.

Such a one is Gallipoli, where silent wrecks bear witness to the dead of a bitter and controversial campaign. These monuments lie not on the landscape, but beneath the surface of the sea.

Now a group of intrepid Army scuba divers has completed the first underwater battlefield tour of Gallipoli.

GRAND PLANS

On March 18, 1915, an Allied fleet of 18 capital ships glided into the Dardanelles to obliterate gun emplacements and open the road to Russia. Churchill's grand plan was to break the deadlock on the Western Front by forcing the straits, knocking Turkey out of the war, and supplying Russia so she could put pressure on the Germans' Eastern Front.

It was a costly failure.

On the first afternoon alone three battleships were sunk by mines, with 700 casualties. Six weeks later Allied troops poured ashore on to six narrow, well-defended beaches. About 20,000 men died in the first 24 hours of the assault.

The divers began their battlefield tour above the water, at Anzac Cove, site of the savagely-contested landing by soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

"We had to see the land battlefield to appreciate the artefacts we were to find underwater," said Lt Col Andrew Mumford. "By studying the beaches, the fortified positions and the cliffs of the cove we could understand what had happened at sea."

The area, now a national park meticulously looked after by the Turks and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, is well groomed with immaculate cemeteries



Two divers take a decompression break on their way back to the surface after inspecting wrecks on the seabed at Gallipoli

Inset: WO1 Alan Staples reads the headstone inscriptions at Anzac Cove cemetery

ies and monuments. Not so below the nearby waters of the Dardanelles.

"The ships are still there, as if nothing has changed," said WO2 Andy Shrimpton. "It really gives you a feeling of what was happening back then, some of it just a few yards from the beaches."

DREADNOUGHTS

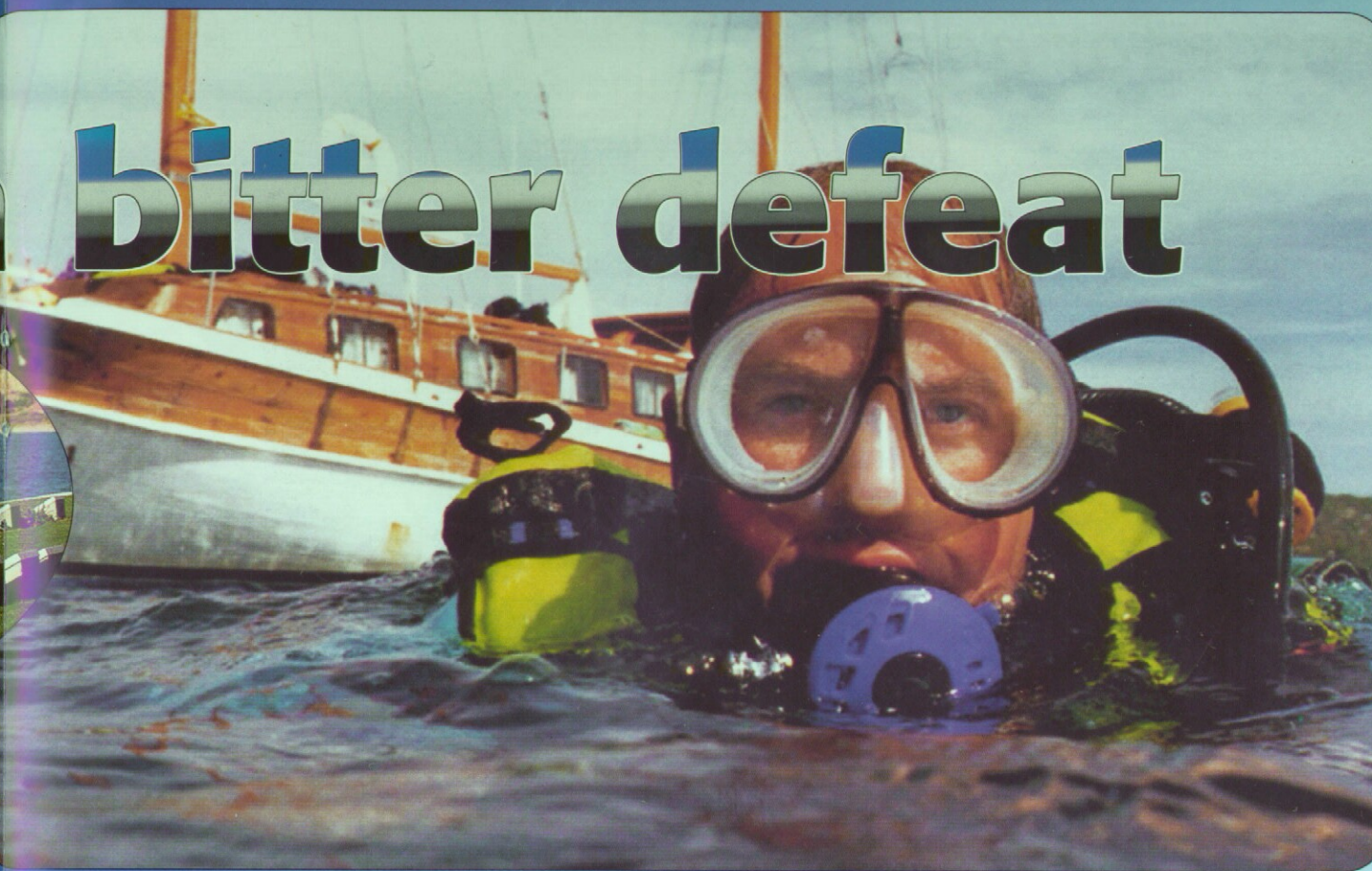
There are 216 known wrecks scattered around the peninsula, ranging from Dreadnought-class battleships to landing craft. Most are within a mile of land and lying in relatively shallow water.

The expedition was given special per-

mission to dive in restricted military areas. "This meant that we were able to dive on wrecks that are rarely seen," said WO2 Shrimpton. "It was a real contrast diving next to a modern-day Turkish ship and then on the wreck of one that had sunk in 1915".

Lt Col Mumford said party members, from the Londinium Military Diving Club at Chelsea Barracks, wanted a worthwhile expedition that was challenging, adventurous and rewarding.

WO1 Alan Staples had mixed emotions. "Diving teaches you discipline, confidence and self-reliance. However, when I first saw



Coming up: Lt Col Andrew Mumford, above, surfaces from his deep dive on the battleship HMS *irresistible*. Behind him is the chartered dive boat, *Gypsy*

Bomb burst: Divers, left, inspect the wreck of a large landing craft lying a few metres from the beach. It may have been swamped by an explosion during the ferocious battle for the peninsula as there is no sign of it being hit and holed. Scrambling nets for the troops are still attached to the bows

WO1 Alan Staples, below, foreground, and WO2 Andy Shrimpton swim over one of the landing beaches in the Dardanelles. It is now a mussel bed



the wreck of the battleship HMS *Irresistible*, lying keeled over with an enormous hole in her port side, I knew that was where she had been mined. It was an eerie feeling."

But it was the smaller boats they found that were even more poignant. Thousands of troops were ferried ashore in rowing boats and landing craft which came under

intense gunfire from shore batteries. Many lie on the seabed, their decks and ropes surprisingly intact. In stark contrast to the cacophony of noise and violence which accompanied their demise, the wrecks are now silent, entombed by the constant surges of the tides and the hectic movement of marine creatures.

Blue-green light ripples over the barnacles and coral which have colonised these monuments of war. Like the sombre rows of headstones which characterise the beautifully manicured land-based cemeteries nor far away, these nautical remains have a special dignity bestowed by the waters which conceal them.

Patient paras get thumbs-up

A GROUP of 52 terminally-ill children spent a week with The Parachute Regiment on an Airborne Adventure in the Black Mountains.

With the help of "The Dukes of Hazard", otherwise known as LCpls Paul Baxter and Rick Green, the children and their nurses took part in a range of activities they would never otherwise have had a chance to do.

They skimmed across the Usk reservoir on a power-boat, tore around in

Land Rovers, crossed obstacle courses, flung themselves on the ground in pretend grenade attacks and took part in a treasure hunt.

It was a welcome change for the children, whose lives are usually governed by treatment and hospitals, and the paras, led by 2nd Lt Ed Paxton, 2 Para, got the thumbs-up from the nurses.

"They're brilliant," said Lisa Hughes, a postgraduate nurse from Guy's Hospital. "They are so patient."



Running stars: WO2 Charles Jenkins, right, and colleagues from the Intelligence Corps, line up with former corps member Arthur Shawdon, second from left, who is a resident in the Star and Garter Home at Richmond. Charles and four Int Corps members will be running in the

JS Marine Corps Marathon in Washington this month to raise money for the home. Earlier this year Charles presented a cheque for £400 to the Star and Garter after completing the London Marathon. Also in the picture are Baz Stokes, left, and Craig Thomson



Corps spirit: Dressed as soldiers of the First World War Army Cyclist Corps, Gary Hancock, above, and fellow-members of the Khaki Chums pedalled the Ypres salient in Belgium to raise more than £7,000 for Service charities including the Royal British Legion

Apache team reverts to the bicycle

SIX soldiers working on the Apache helicopter project at **Middle Wallop**, led by SSgt Dave Vaughan, completed a 700-mile bicycle ride around the UK to raise more than £2,700 for the Enham Trust Shoebox Appeal.

Medics from **225 (Highland) Fd Amb (V)** organised a day of fun and "It's a Knockout"-style challenges at Dundee's Caird Park and raised more than £6,000 for children's charities on Tayside.

Capt John Twilley, Permanent Staff Admin Officer of **209 Battery RA**, ran the London Marathon and raised £5,356 for the British Heart Foundation. This followed the deaths of three soldiers from the unit last year, including the commanding officer, of heart-related diseases.

The British Ex-Services Wheelchair Sports Association has received £513 as a result of Maj Peter Knoll, RLC, Maj Bob Pratt, RLC, Maj John Oakes, Royal Sigs and Mr Mike Baker running the 76-km Ridge Run at Eisenach, Germany.

Soldiers from the **3 PWR** walked 250 miles from Haltwhistle to Hull in support of the Macmillan Trust in York and the Dove House Hospice in Hull.

The Army helped the Mayor of Southend raise money for the St John Ambulance Brigade of Southend by



Blanket coverage: Maj Andy Jordan, above right, and WO1 RSM Alistair Macdonald of Donnington-based 174 Provost Company Royal Military Police, which has served in Bosnia, with cot blankets the unit collected for an orphanage in Banja Luka

It's the way he tells them: Comedian Frank Carson, a former Parachute Regiment lance corporal, explains to Brig David Shaw, left, commander of 42 (North West) Brigade, that he had the most important job in the Army... feeding the pigeons in the signals section. Frank opened the brigade's open day at Fullwood Barracks, Preston, which raised £12,000 for charity



organising and sponsoring her to take part in a tandem free-fall. Cllr Nora Goodman jumped with the **Red Devils** at their base in Netheravon.

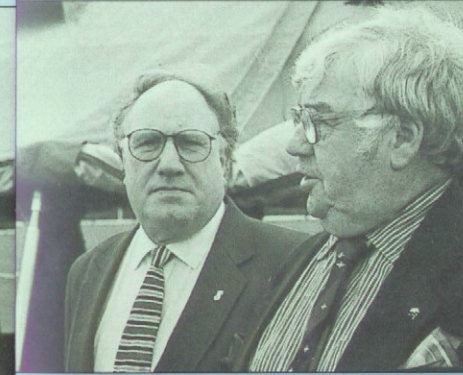
Swimming, running, cycling and horse-riding by staff from the **ATR Lichfield** raised £1,000 for Cancer Research and Riding for the Disabled. Capt Jackie Murphy QARANC, Cpl Jason Musty APTC, and Cpl Sarah Garside RMP swam for eight hours, ran eight miles, cycled 24 miles and then rode 24 miles around the city boundaries.

The special care baby unit at Salisbury District Hospital benefited by £900 after

ten soldiers from **6 HQ Sqn, 22 Engr Regt** on Exercise in Kenya ran from their base at Amboseli to Nairobi, a distance of 216km.

Capt Su McCrae of Grantham-based 5 Trg Regt RLC did a 24-hour ride on a gym bike to raise the £16,000 she needs to enter the 585-mile Warsaw-Krakow-Prague cycle ride for Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Peper Harow Foundation.

Nine TA soldiers from **31st (London) Sig Regt (V)** dressed up as French Foreign Legionnaires for a televised fund-raising event at the Redoubt Fortress,



Eastbourne. The evening raised more than £5,500 for the town's special baby care unit.

Students training as medical assistants at the **Defence Medical Services Training Centre**, Keogh Barracks, near Aldershot, were the models at a charity fashion show during which £1,300 was collected for the Make a Wish Foundation children's charity.

Mandy Robinson, a support organiser for BFG Vocational Training Services at Osnabrück, and mother-of-two Carol O'Connor raised £1,000 for Cardiac Risk in the Young by running the London



Broom, broom: Halifax Building Society employees Sarah Gardner, left, and Angela Rammell join LCpl Stephen Challis on top of an M2 amphibious bridging and ferrying vehicle shortly before competing against colleagues in a sponsored vehicle wash-down. The event, carried out on M2 rigs belonging to 227 Hampshire Yeomany Amphibious Engineer Squadron, raised £300 for the Parkside Centre run by Aldershot and District Mencap

Marathon. The husbands of both women serve with the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards.

Members of the WO's and Sergeants' Mess, **Keogh Barracks**, near Aldershot, took part in a 24-hour race to raise funds for the Birmingham Children's Hospital transplant team.

Soldier-sailors from the **1 Kings** collected £300 for Service charities at the SSAFA-sponsored Mersey Festival raft race.

Twelve soldiers from **102 Sqn, 71st Scottish Engr Regt (V)**, aided by three

Regular NCOs, took part in the Nijmegen Marches in Holland to raise £10,000 for equipment for Glasgow's Victoria Infirmary, where a colleague, Spr Steve Wright, is receiving treatment for leukaemia.

Bassingbourn Barracks Golf Club members ran their summer meeting in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund and handed over a cheque for £800 raised by 3 Troop, 28 Training Squadron RE.

Band Sgt Maj Paul Darlaston, of the **AGC Band** based at Worthy Down, completed the London Marathon for Childline.

Fd Marshal Lord Inge was the guest of honour at a dinner and Beating Retreat ceremony at Liverpool Town Hall in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund's Merseyside appeal. Among the hosts were TA soldiers from **33 Sig Regt**.

The Army Benevolent Fund, Somerset, was the benefactor when the **Band of the Irish Guards** Beat Retreat on the front lawn of Taunton School to raise money. Also taking part were buglers from **6 LI** and the Band of the Somerset Battalion, ACF.

TA divers from **560 HQ Sqn, 78 (Fortress) Engr Regt** based in Southampton spent a day with the fish in Portsmouth Sea Life Centre to raise money for Children in Need and leukaemia research.



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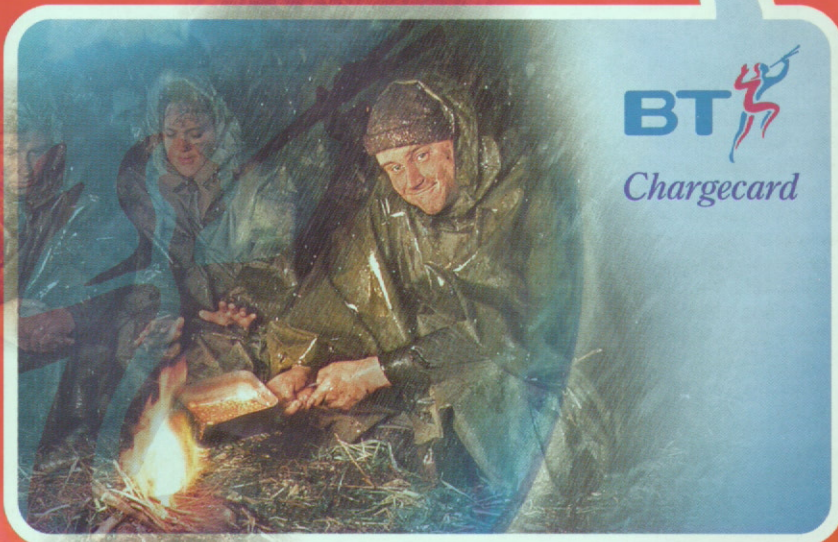
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ARM2

BIATHLON



Picture: Terry Champion

Sure fire: From left to right, Cpl Vicky Gray, Pte Beverley Robinson, SSgt Bob Anderson, LCpl Jackie Hodgson and Pte Emma Fowler break from training at Ash Ranges, Aldershot

Biathletes aim at highest targets

THE Army women's biathlon team, whose members also make up the British team, have been given the opportunity to train together as one squad in Aldershot.

The women will be able to build on strong foundations. Three of them, Pte Emma Fowler (1 RHA), LCpl Jackie Hodgson (2 Fd Amb, Germany) and Cpl Vicky Gray (24 Armd Fd Amb, Catterick), represented Great Britain in Europe last season and hope to compete successfully in Europa Cup races this winter to gain experience in top level competitions. The other member of the team is Pte Beverley Robinson (RLC).

SSgt Bob Anderson, the British team coach, said: "It takes about four to eight years of hard training to develop a world-class athlete and these young ladies are just at the beginning of this cycle."

"However, the team is looking to the

future and hopes to qualify for both World Cup races and, with consistent results, for the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

"A top biathlete uses up twice the energy of a top football player during a 90-minute game and has to ski at maximum effort with a pulse of 190 beats a minute. They then have to stop and shoot at a disc no bigger than the bottom of a coke bottle."

"They have to do that within 35 seconds for prone shooting and 30 seconds for standing," SSgt Anderson said.

"The target for standing is the size of a small tea plate, but with very tired arms and legs after long uphill climbs, it makes it a very difficult task indeed."

● Sgt Michael Dixon (35 Engr Regt) was placed 19th in the 8km pursuit in the third World Summer Biathlon championships in Osrbli, Slovakia.

SHORTS

Marathon effort

CAPT Mark Hughes (24 Airmobile Brigade) has raised £1,000 towards research into progressive supranuclear palsy, a neuro-degenerative disease, by running in the New York marathon. His sponsorship money will be presented to the Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association, which was set up in 1994 by an Army officer whose wife died from the disease.

Hunt for fittest athlete

SOLDIERS are being encouraged to enter a new national competition aimed at find the fittest person in Britain. The X Zone takes place at the NEC Birmingham next March when 1,000 competitors will prove how fit they are across ten lung-bursting disciplines, including a treadmill, chin-ups, push-ups, cycling and rowing. The entry fee is £165 and the event aims to raise £1 million for charity. For more details about X Zone contact the Esprit Group on 0171 928 5055.

Army lifts Guards Cup

THE Army lifted the Grenadier Guards Challenge Cup at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, by convincingly beating old rivals Metropolitan Police 2-0 in their annual fixture for the trophy. The margin could have been doubled on the balance of play over 90 minutes.

Chairman takes a dive

THE Londinium Military Diving Club celebrated the first anniversary of its re-constitution by investing its president, Maj Gen Evelyn Webb-Carter, GOC London District, in an underwater ceremony at its headquarters in Chelsea Barracks. The club exists for the benefit of all military and MoD personnel in London District. You can contact the club on London District 4261 or (0171 414 4261), or WO2 Culling on 07771 825462.

● Diving on Dardanelles – Pages 36-37

Sporting spirit

Members of 225 (Highland) Field Ambulance RAMC based in Dundee will attend the 1999 Army Medical Services ski championships at Jasper, Canada with help from £1,500 of sponsorship by the Glenturret Distillery. More than 350 members from the Regular and Territorial Army will compete. Participants will ski in the 30km cross-country race in full Arctic clothing and carrying a 22lb pack.

MOUNTAIN MARATHON

Gurkhas show clean heels



Best foot forward: Hard training by these seven soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles paid off when they made a good showing in the Mount Kinabalu International Climathon in Borneo. The Gurkhas, stationed in Brunei, underwent a three-week training schedule on the granite mountain, the highest peak in South East Asia, rising to 4095m (13,432ft).

First victory over Danes

BRITISH Army Germany's football team notched up a notable scalp when they beat the Danish Army 2-5 at Alborg Garrison, northern Denmark, in the first meeting between the two sides. The victory was hard-won because the Danes still use a system of conscription and their team included several very talented semi-professional players from the Danish league.

ON TOUR

Signals success in South Africa

A COMPOSITE team of Royal Signals sportsmen and women completed a memorable tour of South Africa to cement links with their sister corps in the SA National Defence Force.

The party, made up of netball players, footballers and golfers, also had the chance to hold a series of coaching clinics in Soweto, and to enjoy the superb scenery and wildlife.

The footballers won three games and drew the other, while the netballers also made a good showing, losing to the strong SANDF and signals teams before recovering to win their final two games.



There were some unusual courses for the golfers to play on, including one in Kruger National Park where the club secretary would not allow anyone to tee off before 0600

"because the lions do not get clear of the course until about 30 minutes after dawn".

Sig Jason Andrew keeps his mind on shooting a birdie rather than the large wart-hog he encountered on a fairway at the Hans Merensky course in the Kruger National Park

APPOINTMENT

Superstar takes on PR challenge

THE Army has appointed a real star to promote sport. In fact, Brian Hooper, the Army's new public relations consultant, is a triple superstar, having won the British, International and World Superstars Championships.

The competitions became cult television viewing in the 1980s when athletes from different disciplines competed against each other to find the fittest and strongest. Regular competitors included shot putter Geoff Capes and swimmer David Wilkie.

Brian's new challenge is to give Army sport and adventurous training a higher profile. "Sport is good for the Army where it is played as it should be, with all the politics taken out and just done for the benefit of those taking part," he told *Soldier*.

Brian had a distinguished international career in pole vaulting and set 34 British records – the most of any athlete in any event. He reached the Olympic finals in 1976 and 1980 and won bronze at the Commonwealth Games in 1974 and 1978.



Lift-off: Former international Brian Hooper in his Superstar days in 1982, and inset, today

CROSS COUNTRY

Runners with high hopes

ARMY cross-country runners are already reaping the benefits of a training trip to Kenya, according to team manager Capt Terry Hall (RLC).

Exercise Thin Air was an altitude training camp organised by Capt Steve Lonnen (RLC) involving a 20-strong squad of Army athletes representing seven cap badges.

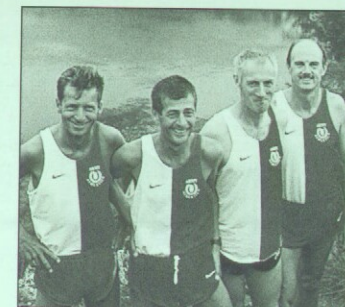
A first for an Army athletics team, it was helped by funding from the Army Sport Lottery and units.

Although the real benefits of altitude training do not kick in until about three weeks after returning to sea level, the intensive schedule that individuals undertook and challenging time-trials run at Lake Naivasha, 6,000ft above sea level, clearly helped preparation for top-class events.

In the Army marathon championships in Manchester, Sgt Kenny Butler (RLC), ran a creditable 2hr 33min 22 sec to finish second behind the Army and RLC's top marathon runner, Sgt Andy Arrand.

Veteran Maj Pete Marsh (RLC) rounded off his season by adding the Army marathon title to the Inter-Services and Army half-marathon championships he won at Fleet prior to finishing top Inter-Services veteran in the London Marathon.

The Kenyan camp also produced the Army women's marathon champion, Sgt



Top of the world: The Army veteran athletes, above, are from left, Capt Steve Lonnen, Maj Peter Marsh, LCpl Sean Malone and Capt Terry Hall. Right, the runners take a break from training



Sonia Hurst APTC (SEME Bordon).

Lonnen, Army veterans' 10km champion, ran himself into an England selection spot by finishing fourth (third Englishman) in a 5km road race at the GB national veterans' championships at Sutton Park.

Best achievement so far by a member of the Thin Air squad was in the British Forces Germany half-marathon, when Sgt Mike Coughlan (REME) capitalised on some brutal personal training in Kenya to produce a top-class run of 69min 50sec to decimate the rest of the field by finishing four minutes clear.

Additional successes have been a cross-country league victory for LCpl Sophie Morris (2 Sigs Regt) and for Capt Steve Weetman (RLC) and Sgt Rod Leach (APTC).

● Winners of the Army cross-country championships staged over a three-mile circuit at Tweseldown, near Aldershot, were:

Junior women, Pte Claire Winchurch (RLC); **junior men,** Pte Keith Sheppard (RLC); **veteran women,** Capt Lynn Higgs (ASPT); **veteran men,** Capt Steve Lonnen (RLC); **senior women,** Sig Nicky Dean (HQ Aldershot Garrison); **senior men,** WO2 Rod Finch (7 Para RHA).

HILL RALLY



Action from the Welsh hill rally supported by Goodyear at the Royal Welsh Showground

Drivers gear up for victory

THE Lex-British Army Rally team competed for the first time in the Welsh hill rally in what was effectively the final round of the 1998 Army stage rally championships.

It comprised three days of road and extreme off-road sections, making it one of the toughest events of its kind in

Europe. Maj Alan Paramore (RLC) kept his lead in the championship and finished first overall for 1998 by 14 points.

The team consisted of six Land Rover Defender 90s, crewed by members of the British Army Motoring Association who have been selected to represent the Combined Services for this season.

SHORTS

Lucky man scoops prize

NO wonder he's a happy man. Pte Jason Rausch, pictured, of 22 Field Hospital RAMC, scooped a £3,200 prize in the Army Sports Lottery after playing the game for just two months. The lottery hands out £9,000 a week in prize money and the latest lists of winners can be found on Page 59 of this issue. Tickets cost 75p each a week.



Massey Trophy results

Latest results in the Massey Trophy inter-corps football competition are:
AMS 1, Infantry 5; AGC 6, APTC 3; RE 4, AMS 0; AAC 1, AGC 4; APTC 1, Infantry 2; Infantry 3, REME 1; RA 2, AAC 2; AMS 2; RLC 7; AGC 2; RAC 1; RE 2; APTC 1; RAC 1, R Signals 3; AGC 1, RLC 2.

Decked out: *Broadsword* skippers

Captains courageous

Eight soldiers and one MoD-employed civilian will each command *Broadsword* on one leg of Transglobe 98. We spoke to three of the skippers.

Peter Battley, right, skipper UK to Antigua

A one-time WO2 in the Royal Corps of Transport, Peter Battley has been a staff skipper sailing Nicholson 55s for the JSASTC for several years. He said of the first leg across the North Atlantic: "I've got five weeks to get there, but the first two will be the hardest. We'll keep the route nice and simple while the crew are getting used to it, and then we can really push it."



WO2 Nigel Rennie, skipper Hawaii to Hong Kong

Nigel Rennie is a veteran of 12 ocean passages. Within six months of his first voyage, he had built his own yacht. Last year he came close to tragedy off the coast of California when the boat on which he was a crew member capsized and sank in 60mph winds. But Rennie insists the good times far outweigh the bad. "I've sailed alongside whales bigger than our yacht," he said. "What a sport!"

Lt Col John Lawrence, skipper Argentina to Grenada

John Lawrence is one of the most experienced sailors in the race. But he has never sailed in the southern hemisphere or crossed the equator. He will do both during the race. Lawrence crewed a 32-footer during the 1979 Fastnet. He said: "They were survival conditions and it was a bit testing. We capsized once, but came up with everything intact."

Broadsword must sharpen up

Sailing to survive: Just hours on from the start of Transglobe 98, the Inter-Service round-the-world sailing race, the Army's boat faced disaster...

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE FIRST leg of the race appeared to be over before it really began for the Army's entry in Transglobe 98. First battered by storms and gales and then plagued by a serious leak which defied all efforts to locate and repair it, the Army sailors were forced to put back into Plymouth twice. As early efforts to identify and repair the leak failed and with no reserve boat available from the fleet of Services' Nicholson 55s, it looked increasingly likely that the Army crew would be reduced to trying to catch up the other two boats in time for the second leg. The organisers accepted that even this would be a major challenge.

Nevertheless, with a year and 30,000 miles still to run, the Army is by no means out of the race. But from now on Transglobe will be a far greater struggle than anyone had anticipated.

The problems facing *Broadsword's* skipper Peter Battley and his 11 crew began while the adrenalin-pumping excitement of the November 7 start in the Solent was still driving them. Ironically, considering the drama to come, *Broadsword* initially did well, pulling away from the RAF's *Racer* and the Royal Navy's *Adventure* shortly after the fleet rounded the Needles off the Isle of Wight.

The conditions had been blustery, unpleasant for the small farewell fleet which gratefully turned back before the competitors had even left the Solent, but hardly a problem for the big racers. Then things changed. Soon after course had been set for the Western Approaches, the westerlies developed dramatically, and the boats began battling into the teeth of a storm.

The struggle to retain the lead position became a struggle for survival as *Broadsword* began taking on water at a rate which threatened to overwhelm her pumps. As heavy seas broke across the



Before the storm: Trials showed no problems aboard *Broadsword* before its perilous start

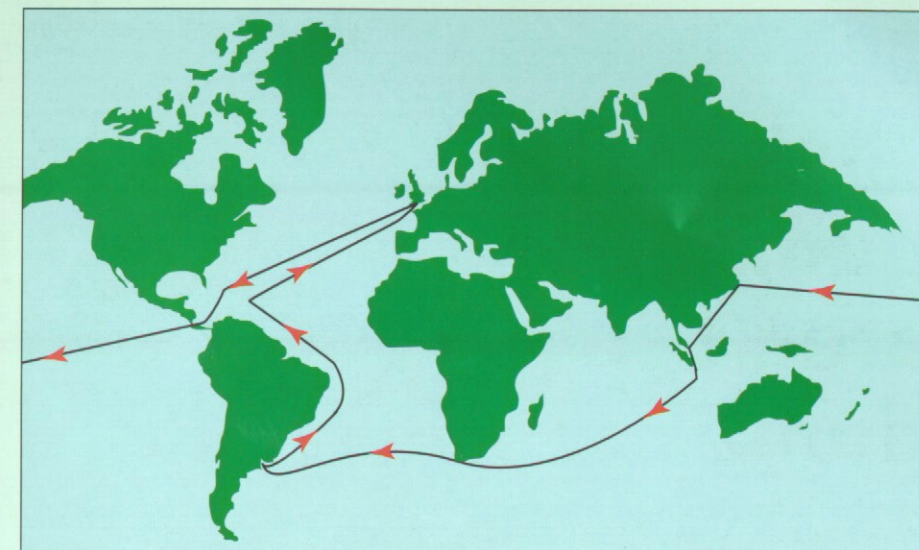
decks the decision was made to head for the shelter of Plymouth. *Racer*, the nearest of the sister boats, also suffering from damage to deck equipment, headed for *Broadsword*, ready to help if the situation became more serious, and two lifeboats and a rescue helicopter stood by on shore.

Meanwhile, *Adventure*, which could have continued and gained a valuable lead, gallantly called off its attempt and also headed for Plymouth.

Five days later, with *Broadsword*

pumped out and apparently watertight, and deck damage aboard all three boats repaired, the crews re-started the race. But not for long.

Under full sail again, *Broadsword's* leak returned with a vengeance, and Peter Battley reluctantly returned to Plymouth. Army engineers grappled with the problem for several more days before plugging a weakness in the bilges which all concerned hoped would solve the problem once and for all. As *Soldier* went



Graphic: Mark Draper

Round trip: Three Service crews will race across nine oceans during the circumnavigation

CREWS can look forward to visiting some exotic ports in both hemispheres. The fleet will spend time at each of the nine stops while crews are changed and trained, and the boats repaired and re-supplied. The organisers hope to stick to this timetable:

November - December, UK to Antigua
December - January, Antigua to Panama

January - March, Panama to Hawaii
March - April, Hawaii to Hong Kong
April - June, Hong Kong to Singapore
June - August, Singapore to South Africa
August - September, South Africa to Argentina
September - November, Argentina to Grenada
November - December, Grenada to UK

to press, the boat had made a third start and was making up for a lost week. Army race organiser Capt John Broadley was clearly relieved - if not yet counting his chickens. He said that the crew had shown great skill in recovering from a highly dangerous situation. "Their thoughts were exactly where they should be - on safety."

To the skippers - for this leg only civilians employed by the Joint Services Adventurous Sail Training Centre at Gosport - and the 11-man crews of the cutter-rigged Nicholson 55s, this had been an unwelcome reminder that adventure can easily become danger, and with a year of sailing ahead, it would take a rash pundit to say that the boats would not find themselves in more tight corners.

Despite *Broadsword's* serious problem there is still general confidence in the design of the boats. *Broadsword*, *Racer* and *Adventure* were extensively re-fitted and modernised in the months leading up the race. More than £200,000 was spent on each boat and all now have additional watertight bulkheads (an improvement which must have seemed very wise off Plymouth) as well as new satellite communications equipment, wind

generators and water purification systems. In some ways the little ships are as well-equipped as their big sisters of the "grey funnel line". But, of course, they are not armed. Months from now, when the little fleet (including, the organisers hope, *Broadsword*) is passing through the South China Sea, this may seem like an oversight, because in that remote region there is a real threat from pirates.

Friendly warships in the area have been asked to keep an eye on them, but at a pre-start briefing the skippers were warned to take the threat very seriously and to treat any approaching boats with suspicion.

Not everyone is concerned about this age-old threat. One Royal Navy skipper was heard to comment: "They'll think twice when they're confronted by 12 hairy matelots."

Maybe, but the organisers have stressed that safety must be the crews' first consideration. At least they will be pleased that the Army crew has proved its ability to recover from a crisis.

Safety is important but so is winning. The stressed crew of *Broadsword* know that if they are to collect prizes they will need to prove they have beaten the leak, then catch up with *Racer* and *Adventure*.

Tempo turns tent into a totally tropical experience

THOSE days of freezing tents and equally inhospitable temporary buildings beloved of soldiers on exercise could soon be a distant memory.

A lightweight thermal insulation lining system, developed from a unique material used in the manufacture of food containers, is set to revolutionise military accommodation in the field.

Known as Tempo, the fabric has the

added advantage of being thermal-image proof, so offering additional protection for people, aircraft, vehicles and other equipment. Tempo liners, which can be as little as 6mm thick, were originally developed for the food industry.

The material is now being used by the Army for a number of high-tech applications, including the transport of fresh and chilled food to front-line positions in hos-

tile climates. Other products suitable for the Army are in their design stages.

Its inventor, Brian Seymour, said: "Traditionally, heavier insulation materials were thought to be the most thermally efficient, but Tempo was shown to offer outstanding performance in all climates. It keeps people and products cool in heat and warm in cold temperatures, and its claims have been validated."

These EOD dummies aren't so dumb...

CLEVER dummy devices which have all the characteristics of real weapons are to be used by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) units as training aids.

Known as Reactive Sub-Munition Training Models (RSTM), the dummies are armed with nothing more lethal than sensors. They can be designed to imitate a variety of weapons, from anti-personnel bomblets and delayed-action cratering bombs to anti-tank mines and chemical bombs.

Instead of a lethal explosion if a student gets it wrong, the only thing to go bang will be pyrotechnics and electric signals.

The dummies, which can be dressed up to look like a wide variety of devices, will be supplied to the Army to provide incredibly realistic training for the soldiers who have to learn how to deal with such deadly weapons. RSTMs will help them to recognise which type of explosive device they are faced with, its characteristics and the best way to deal with it.

The dummies can be scattered by hand over a training area and variously set to "explode" by delayed action timer or when handled. They can also be "destroyed" by means of laser fire from laser attachments on soldiers' rifles.

The contract has been awarded by the Engineering and Light Weapons Systems Directorate at the MoD Procurement Executive to Pennant International Ltd. Delivery will begin in May.

COBRA IS ON THE WAY: The £350-million Cobra (Counter Battery Radar) project, now in production, will deliver seven systems starting in 2001. They will be based in Catterick with 5 Regiment, Royal Artillery. The joint UK, French and German system will be capable of locating hostile rocket, gun and mortar batteries at long range.



Putting a foot in it

A three-year contract for providing the Army with NATO-standard NBC overboots has been awarded to Silvertown UK Ltd. The overboots, pictured left, are designed to fit over normal service footwear to provide protection against chemical agents.

● The Procurement Executive is to buy hundreds of advanced lightweight sensors which, hidden in the ground, will detect and classify people and vehicles, their numbers, and the direction in which they are moving.

The "eyes and ears" Remote Ground Sensor (RGS) equipment will relay information to troops up to two miles away. Following evaluation trials, a new system should be in service with the Regular infantry by July.

● A bandage being developed by the American Red Cross with funding from the US Army contains natural clotting agents found in blood. It would help military medics save the wounded from bleeding to death.

Tracer set to be a disappearing asset

TRACER, the Army's armoured tactical reconnaissance vehicle for the next century, will be capable of gathering information deep behind enemy lines.

Using the latest stealth design and systems technology, its makers say it will be virtually undetectable.

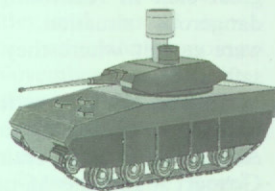
Its sensors will pinpoint the positions of opposing forces, minefields, headquarters, artillery sites and other high-value targets, and send the data securely back to a

network of users ranging from strategic commanders down to tank, artillery and anti-tank helicopter commanders.

As reported in *Soldier* (Aug), Britain is to collaborate with the USA on the £3-billion project. Tracer –

acronym for the UK's Tactical Reconnaissance Armoured Combat Equipment Requirement – will be

known in America as FSCS or Future Scout and Cavalry System.



Wash away those chemical blues

A PORTABLE shower has been designed to clean up contaminated victims and rescuers at the site of chemical spills.

It is the invention of Aireshelta Ltd, the Huddersfield-based company which provides inflatable buildings currently used by the British Army in Bosnia.

The Aireshower, which has its own hot water supply, can be in action within five

minutes of arriving at the scene. It is big enough to accommodate two stretchers or six people standing up. The decontamination process is completed in minutes using water contained in the shelter.

Aireshelters have been used as workshops in Bosnia by the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and by the Military Police as control points.

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This video should be available at the end of November from your usual stockist, or you can obtain it directly from Julian Peters by sending £19.95 (cheque made payable to Major J Peters) to:

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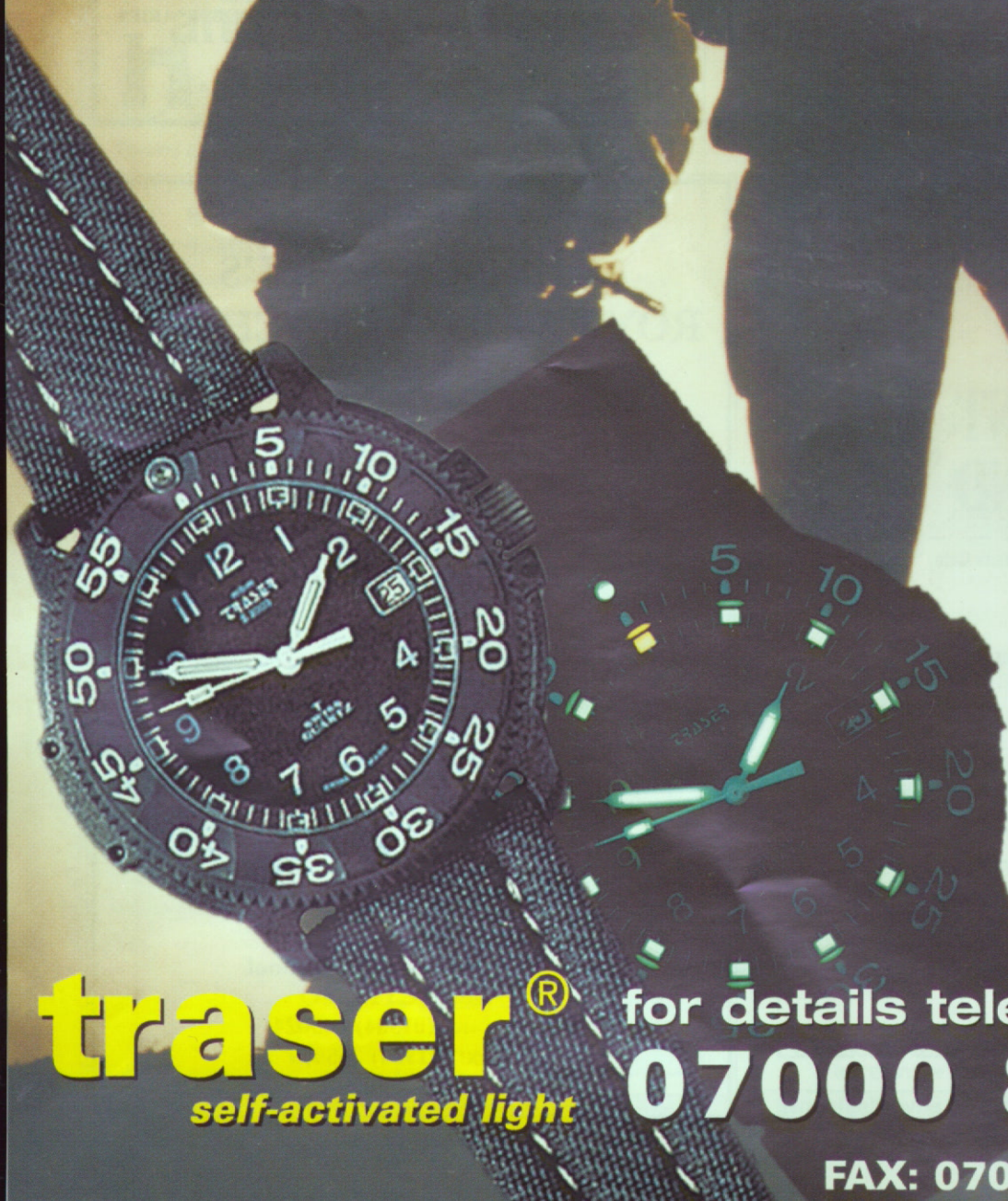
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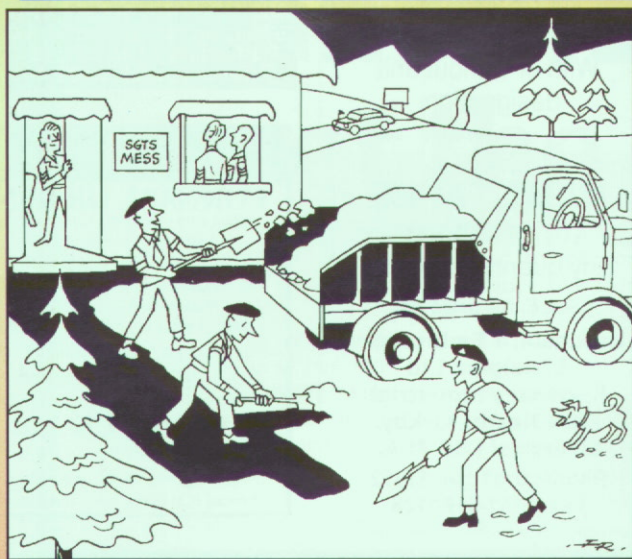
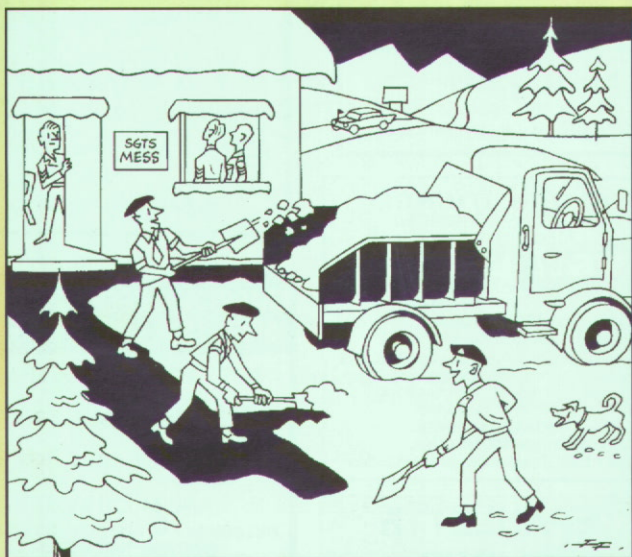
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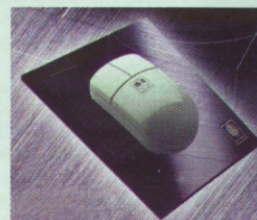


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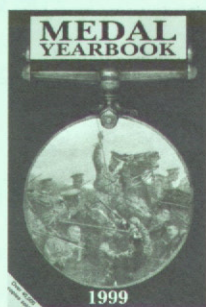
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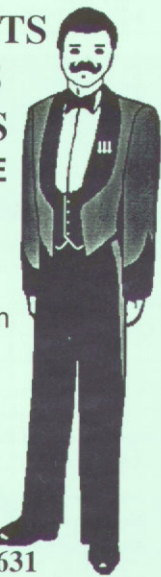
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Michelle, 31, 5'7", fair hair, slim and single. GSOH. Hobbies include cycling, walking, socialising, travelling and writing letters. Seeking pen pals, 27+. **P358** 12/98

Vic, a well-travelled, divorced, 50-year-old ex-soldier (built for comfort not speed) with GSOH and an interest in gardening, current affairs, militaria. Enjoys karaoke, pubs and nights in and out. Seeking female pen pals, 28-45. **P359** 12/98

Michelle, 24, 5' 8", medium build with long, brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys going out to the cinema and pubs and is learning to drive. Works as a receptionist for a local bank and is seeking pen pals, 24-30. **P360** 12/98

Carol, 36, 5'7", brown hair and brown eyes. Separated and fun-loving. Enjoys music, socialising, writing and receiving letters. Looking for pen pal with GSOH. All letters answered. **P361** 12/98

Samantha, 5'3", a large, loopy, non-smoking, divorced 26-year-old with GSOH. Enjoys reading, writing, walking, sci-fi, music, video and driving. Seeking pen pals, 26-40. **P362** 12/98

Student nurse seeks honest pen pals in the Armed Forces for regular correspondence. Good sense of humour is essential. Please reply to: **P363** 12/98

Sarah, 30, 5'4", a slim and attractive, single female who enjoys travelling, motor-racing, cycling, going out and having fun and letter-writing. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. Photo appreciated. **P364** 12/98

Judith, 33, 5', petite brunette. Hobbies include long country walks, cosy pubs, going to the gym, being with friends and talking, laughing and living life to the full. Seeking pen pals, 25+. **P366** 12/98

Sharidon, 39, 5', slim with fair complexion. A bubbly personality and likes to read, listen to music and dance. Would like genuine pen pals, 39-44, with GSOH and over 5'10". **P367** 12/98

Mary, youthful 40s, tall, slim and blonde. Professional lady with lovely smile and an interest in travel, music, animals, the outdoors and men in uniform. Invites correspondence from mature serving/ex-Servicemen with tales of adventure, humour and excitement. **P368** 12/98

Sara, 5', 32, blonde, working single parent. Enjoys sports, socialising, music, football and horse-riding. GSOH. Seeking pen pals, 28-38. All letters answered. **P369** 12/98

Margaret, 29, 5'6" with golden hair and blue eyes. Enjoys pop music, dancing, the cinema, swimming, learning Spanish and travel. Would like to hear from pen pals, 30-40. **P370** 12/98

Fiona, 5'4", an attractive 37-year-old, slim, blue-eyed blonde. Ex-Purser and Merchant Navy officer (QE2). Enjoys travel, flying, cars/racing, the cinema, pets, good food/wine. Seeking pen pals, 37-44. Photo appreciated. **P371** 12/98

Tina, 29, 5'4", shoulder-length brown hair, brown eyes. Hobbies include the gym, music, live bands and shows, animal welfare and travel. A single mother and leisure centre receptionist who is seeking pen pals of any age. **P372** 12/98

Susan, 40, 5'5", with green eyes, light brown hair and GSOH. Enjoys travel, music, arts and crafts and writing letters. Looking for like-minded pen friends. Don't delay, write today. **P373** 12/98

Elizabeth, a 40-year-old lady with auburn hair who is a caring, out-going and non-smoking professional. Would like to hear from tall, confident Servicemen of similar age with young outlook. **P374** 12/98

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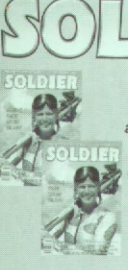
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OCTOBER 24, 1998

Four-way tie for first prize (22 goals, £1,725) each: Sgt AS Dix, RLC Trg Centre, Deepcut; Capt DJ Eastman, 9/12L, Swanton Morley; CSgt AF

Fisher, 1 RGBW, Colchester; WO2 I Kemp, AGC Trg Centre, Worthy Down.

Eight-way tie for fifth prize (21 goals, £262.50) each: Pte SR Houghton, 9 Signal Regt, Ayios Nikolaos; Cpl CB Lofthouse, 16 Signal Regt, Rheindahlen; Sgt DA McCulloch, 33 Engr Regt (EOD), Wimbish; Cpl PI McFarlane, 1 RGBW, Colchester; Cpl CP Ritson, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; LCpl M Salmon, 25 Engr Regt; Lt Col JO Snell, ATRA, Upavon; Cpl RA Watts, 2 RTR, Fallingbommel.

OCTOBER 31, 1998

First prize (23 goals, £3,200) each:
Pte JP Rausch, 22 Fd Hosp, Aldershot.

Two-way tie for second prize (22 goals, £1,400) each: Sgt MH Pashby, AFCC Liverpool; Sgt KW Twigger, 215 Signal Sqn, Tidworth.

Eight-way tie for fourth prize (21 goals, £375) each: CSgt W Cooper, 1 R Irish, Catterick; Sgt BA Cooper, ASPT, Aldershot; SSgt JA Gilchrist, PCD RLC, Mill Hill; WO2 P Gunn, 1 Regt AAC, Gütersloh; Sgt SF Hunt, HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; Bdr PW Murphy, 4 Regt RA, Osnabrück; Pte G Osborne, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Sgt DA Young, 4 R Irish.

NOVEMBER 7, 1998

Four-way tie for first prize (25 goals, £1,736.11) each: Cpl D Armstrong, 1 A and SH, Edinburgh; Sgt NFM Edwards, 3 R Irish; Cpl DJ

Summerscales, ITC Catterick; Sgt SD Whelan, HQ 2 (SE) Bde, Shorncliffe.

Five-way tie for fifth prize (24 goals, £411.11) each: LCpl SP Cragg, 42 Svy Engr Gp, Hermitage; LCpl AJ Cross, 1 RRW, Paderborn; LCpl DJ Giboney, AMF (L) CSS Bn, Bulford; Cpl W Graham, ATR Pirbright; Maj SJ May, HQ Land, Wilton.

Note: Only nine prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.

NOVEMBER 14, 1998

First prize (23 goals, £3,200): Cpl CD Ward, AGC Trg Centre, Worthy Down.

Two-way tie for second prize (22 goals, £1,400) each: Maj ID Fisk, 6 LI (V), Bath; SSgt RJ Perry, HQ NI.

Seven-way tie for fourth prize (21 goals, £1,400) each: Capt J Hayman, 1 QLR; WO2 IM Holness, CETC, Hameln; Sgt RC Matless, 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford; Cpl DM Meggitt, 951 Veh Tp RLC, Ashchurch; WO1 DC Mullock, HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; LCpl GM Redfern, 39 Engr Regt, Cambridge; Cpl DT Tennant, HQ LandCent, Heidelberg.

24,690 tickets were entered in the draw in November. When the total reaches 25,000 the prize money will increase to £9,500 per week, with a nominal top prize of £3,500. On current trends this is likely to happen in January. To make sure it does, encourage your friends and colleagues to join the Lottery.

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NOTICES

A memorial service is being held for the late Brigadier Don London, CBE, on Sunday, December 6, 1998 at 11 a.m. The service will be held in the Chapel at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London. Dress for the occasion will be lounge suits. There will be a lunch in the Officers' Mess, for all ranks, following the service. Any person wishing to attend is to send their details, including car registration, to: Staff Captain, CHQ, DPCSA, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7 1PX. Mill Hill Mil: (764) 3304 Civ: 0181 818 6304.

CHARITY: THE SOLDIERS' DEPENDANTS FUND

REFERENCE: EN/107085/AF

The Charity Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity/these charities. A copy can be seen at the offices of The Soldiers' Dependants Fund, Bldg 43, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Wilts SN9 6BE during the month of December 1998 or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference.

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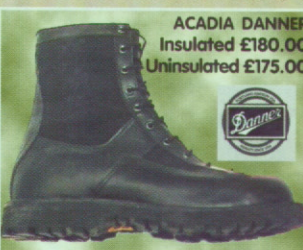
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Warm, windproof, lightweight.



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Ripstop nylon, pertex,
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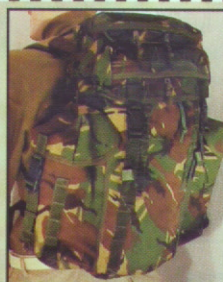


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Green GORE-TEX
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World of wheels

Power show will run and run

GIVEN VW's excellent and enduring reputation for creating probably the best sporty hatchback – the Golf GTi – it comes as a surprise to see sports styling on a diesel-powered version of the new model Golf, writes Syd Taylor.

The range has been taken a stage further with the installation of the high-performance, direct injection diesel engine, bringing power and flexibility as well as improved fuel economy. And this fourth-generation Golf is a completely new model, not just a facelift.

From a distance the looks are familiar if slightly more rounded. Cues from the previous model have been carried over – and wisely so, for Golf aficionados were reluctant to see styling change for the sake of it. Now it's difficult to think of a more accomplished hatchback.

The depth and integrity of VW's engineering have never been better displayed than in this model and the quality and accuracy of fit of all the body parts set standards to which other manufacturers aspire. The maker's confidence in the fully-galvanised body is shown by the 12-year anti-corrosion warranty.

QUALITY

Stylish and spacious, the whole interior is a product of the finest technologies. Everything is well constructed from top-grade materials and you get a strong feeling of quality.

With seating for five, the practicality of the new Golf is obvious. Solid-feeling doors close with a "clunk" on an interior with generous head-room and leg-room and all passengers commented on how comfortable and relaxed they felt.

Cabin space is matched by a generously sized luggage compartment with four substantial lashing points. The space can, of course, be increased by lowering the split 60/40 rear seat back. The whole interior is imaginative and well-designed. There's a chunky and comfortable leather-covered steering wheel and the stylish but sensibly-arranged dash is logical, easy to use and clear to view. Instrument illumination breaks with tradition using mauve lighting to provide a restful focus for night-time driving.

A comprehensive list of features on the car tested includes anti-lock brakes, driver and front passenger airbag plus front seat mounted side airbags, height and reach adjustable steering, electrical-



Road test: VW Golf GT TDi 110 5 Dr

ENGINE 1.9 litre turbo-diesel; variable geometry turbo-charger inlet duct; 'E-gas' electronic accelerator; 110 bhp at 4150 rpm; 173 lb/ft at 1900 rpm.

TRANSMISSION Front-wheel drive; five-speed manual.

Tech Spec

RUNNING GEAR Front axle – McPherson struts and coil springs; rear axle – torsion beam trailing arm.

STEERING Power-assisted rack-and-pinion.

BRAKES Front – ventilated discs; rear – discs.

WEIGHT 2800lb / 1270kg.

PERFORMANCE Top speed 120 mph; acceleration 0 - 62 mph in 10.6 sec.

FUEL CONSUMPTION Combined 57.6 mpg.

PRICE 17,590 on-the-road.

ly-operated windows and door mirrors, power steering, remote central locking, engine immobiliser, trip computer, a good stereo system and a tilt-and-slide sunroof. The test car came equipped with extra-cost air conditioning and heated front seats – a host of extras can be specified, including satellite navigation and other options which are usually only found on large luxury cars.

The big news with this sporty Golf is the 1.9 litre direct-injection turbo-diesel engine, which develops 110 bhp and a thumping 173 lb/ft of torque at only 1900 rpm. A top speed of 120 mph and general high performance is only part of the story.

Almost unbelievably this unit – which is the most thermally efficient engine in any production car – is so economical that in general use you're likely to get between 55 and 60 mpg. Official figures show a stag-

gering extra-urban 70.6. And there is no downside to this engine. It's smooth, quiet, responsive, clean and smoke-free and it starts instantly. You can overtake effortlessly in high gears, but if you want to use all the performance the smooth gearbox helps you extract the maximum.

It's an engine which demonstrates probably the most convincing argument yet for diesel power. Out on the open road a combination of virtues makes the Golf a car you can enjoy driving straightaway. VW has struck an excellent balance between ride and handling, thanks in part to the CAN-bus System, which enables electronic management systems to "talk" to each other, linking ABS, EBD and a steering angle sensor and contributing in a big way to active safety.

Undoubtedly a "state-of-the-art" car, the new Golf has style, image and class.

EXTRAS

Pole position: No, those mysterious blue poles that have been sprouting on British roadsides are not speed cameras, but part of a £10 million expansion which will triple Trafficmaster's existing network. More than 5,000 infra-red sensors and 3,500 beacons have been installed over 7,500 miles of country's roads.

Big policeman in the sky: Satellite and mobile phone are combining to provide the ultimate hi-tech vehicle security package.

Skynet 2001 "wraps" a vehicle in an invisible net of satellite protection that spans continents.

Skynet Control will talk to a thief in the act on the vehicle's phone or will tell accident victims help is on the way. At the same time it will immobilise all systems and fuel supply. It will also provide a "talk-you-there" route guidance and "steer" you round traffic jams.

Shaggy-dog tale (but true): When a driver was stopped because her car was lurching from side to side, police found her excitable dog on the front passenger seat, its lead tied to the steering-wheel.

Download ...

WE have received many anonymous e-mail responses to our Vox pop feature via the *Soldier* page on the Army web site. To be considered for publication, they must include a name and address. Here are some that did:

Is it important to remember those who fell in the First World War?

Yes, very important. Armistice Day is a public holiday in Belgium, where I am serving. It is a paradox that Belgians mark the occasion more seriously than we British do. – **Lt Col G J Meacher, 89 PC Unit, RLC, SHAPE.**

They made the ultimate sacrifice. The least we can do is think of them in silence for two minutes a year. – **WO1 (MG) C F Clifford RA.**

It is essential that we remember. – **OCdt Kerr, University of London OTC.**

My father, Sgt Eric Spicer, Green Howards, was killed at Nijmegen on October 1, 1944. Remembrance Day is special for me and my mother. – **Paul Spicer, Newcastle-on-Tyne.**

By remembering the past, the possible horrors of future conflicts become real. – **Capt Thomas Magee, US Army Reserve.**

If we don't remember the fallen we may as well pretend these conflicts did not happen. – **Sgt D Salter RE (ACF), Hixon, Staffs.**

Does the Army give women soldiers the career opportunities they want?

With more women like the ones you interviewed, the future of women soldiers will be guaranteed. – **Felicity Thelwell, Cambridge.**

I am pursuing a potential career in the Army and, having read the women's opinions, feel that perhaps the Army is the place for me. – **Ruth Lay, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.**

If women want front-line roles they should accept the same training standards as men. – **Cpl G Elson, 1 PWRR.**

Why were no female members of the AGC interviewed? I'm the admin officer with 1 RRF in Londonderry and within my detachment I have one female officer and six female clerks, all of whom more than hold their own in a "man's world". Incidentally, I am male. – **Capt A P Brown AGC(SPS), Londonderry.**

I joined the RCT seven years ago and am now a pilot in the AAC. Opportunities for women are increasing by the day but we must differentiate between what we want to do and what we can achieve. – **Capt Taniya Dennison, 1 Regt AAC.**

● Visit the *Soldier* page via the British Army web-site at <http://www.army.mod.uk>

Unusual sighting of uniform was too much for Wokingites

DELIGHTED that after something like a decade we soldiers are no longer compelled to skulk around in public attempting to conceal ourselves from the miniscule risk of terrorist attack, I took myself for some uniformed lunchtime shopping in Woking.

I was amazed, such was the extent of the evident surprise among members of the public. I watched folk collide in the street, fall off the kerb, walk into walls and turn their heads sharply enough to cause whiplash, so distracted were they by the sight of an Army uniform.

Now, Woking is just minutes from Aldershot, home of the British Army, and

from major military centres at ATR Pirbright and the RLC Training Regiment at Deepcut. If Wokingites are so stunned to see little old me, what must it be like in areas away from such major military presences?

I trust the shrinking violets who voiced their worries in Vox pop (Sept) will be encouraged to cast fear aside, put their regimental and Army pride ahead of all other considerations, and get the Army back where it belongs – in the eye, mind and heart of the British public. – **Maj P A Sturtivant RRF, Army Management Services, Queen Elizabeth Park Barracks, Guildford.**

Prize letter

Long service was long in their day

IN response to R J Shears (Nov), 19th century soldiers served continuously overseas for much longer than in more recent times. When the 2nd Yorkshires returned in March 1909 after 20 years in Burma, India and South Africa, a dinner was given for the officers at the Ritz in London.

In his speech, Maj Gen William Franklyn said: "Four members of the battalion . . . have remained with it, without once coming home during the whole of its foreign service, and of these I must mention the name of Capt Greer."

James Greer enlisted as a private in the 19th Foot at Allahabad in February 1874 and retired as a lieutenant colonel after the 3rd Afghan War (1919). He served with the 2nd Yorkshires for more than 34 years, including the Tirah campaign on the North West Frontier (1897-98) and with the 4th Queen's during the Great War. He died in 1936.

I am honoured to own five of his medals, but sadly one is missing: the Indian Medal for the Tirah campaign. – **John Sly, Editor, Medal News, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.**

Pte Charles "Nobby" Esplin went overseas with the 2nd Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment in 1904 and served in Malta, Singapore, Hong Kong and India, and then in 1915 in the campaign against the Turks in Mesopotamia.

At the end of the First World War in 1918 he returned with the 2nd to India until it was relieved in 1919 by 1 QORWK. Nobby transferred to the 1st and served in India until the battalion, including myself, returned to the UK aboard HMT *Dilwara* in January 1938.

The *News of the World* on January 16, 1938 heralded his arrival back in England and described him as being "famed throughout the Army in India as 'The Man Who Wouldn't Go Home'".

Incidentally, when I arrived in India in February 1933 as a boy soldier aged 15 I was the youngest British soldier in India and Nobby Esplin, then 50, was the oldest. – **Ken Clarke, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.**

Tom Westly, a member of a nearby family during the 1920s and 1930s, Drum Major of the 1st Battalion, The Essex Regt (The Pompadours), twice came home for six months' leave during 12 years in India, returning for further service in India and the Sudan before the battalion eventually returned to Warley Barracks around 1936-37. He was the Colchester area recruiting sergeant who re-enlisted me back into the RA in 1946. – **W Sadler (RA/RAA), Colchester, Essex.**

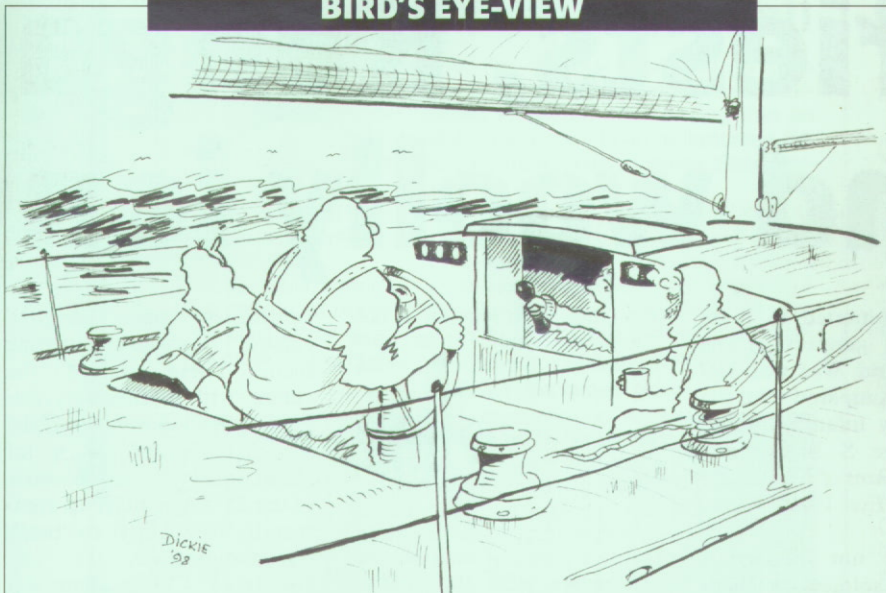
Write us a prize letter

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication).

A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection (see Page 53) will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing!

● Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"It's your wife, on satellite . . . she can't find the spare bulbs for the Christmas tree lights."

Tri-Service world yacht race starts – see Sports pages

Commuting and the single soldier

With reference to your article (Issues, Nov) regarding the Resettlement Commutation Scheme, as a single serving soldier due to complete service in 2000, I have no choice but to apply for resettlement commutation when I leave the Army in case I die soon afterwards, as my pension would go back into the state coffers.

It would not go to my next-of-kin, my elderly mother, as I believe it does for married soldiers. I would rather invest it and leave it in my will for my mother. Isn't it time the Army Pension Scheme provided equal opportunities for all soldiers, married or single. – **SSgt M I Adamson, Army Careers Office, South Yardley.**

This response to SSgt Adamson's letter was provided by Brig A S Ritchie, Director of Personal Services (Army):

THE overriding principle of all occupational pension schemes is to provide retirement benefits to the member and to any eligible survivors who are financially dependent on that member. The Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS), in common with other public service pension schemes, has long defined "eligible survivors" as widow/widowers and dependent children.

This does indeed result in a single person's pension "dying with the individual". However, this definition is no different to that adopted by the State pension scheme, by private sector occupational pensions and by most forms of annuities. Any extension of pension benefits to non-eligible dependants would therefore be

out of step with all comparable pension schemes.

All pension fund contribution levels are determined by actuarial calculations based mainly on average life expectancies. The system is fair but it is a balancing act. There will be some who gain and others who will lose; in particular anyone living beyond the estimated average lifespan will be a "winner".

While I understand SSgt Adamson's concerns about the loss of his pension should he die early, I suspect that he would be equally unhappy if his pension ceased when he reached the actuarial average age!

Finally, it is worth noting that if SSgt Adamson does marry after leaving the Army, his widow would be eligible to a half-rate pension in line with those who marry while still serving.

I hope this explanation clarifies the situation. As always, RAO staff are ready and willing to explain the intricacies of the AFPS to anyone who has a concern about his or her entitlements. Please use them.

Last of his kind?

MY husband was called up in 1960 and was one of the last National Servicemen processed through Reading. He became a Regular, remaining in his regiment – 9/12 L – until October 1985. Next day he became a permanent staff admin officer for Swindon Company, 1 Wessex. When he retires soon he will have completed an unbroken military career of more than 38 years. Is he the last National Serviceman still serving? – **Sheila Mitchell, Swindon, Wilts.**

PS . . .

Reg's missing medal

RE the replacement of Reg Goding's medals (Bulletin board, Nov) by 6/7 PWRR, he is shown wearing the Atlantic Star, Africa Star with bar, Italy Star, War Medal 1939-45 (mis-titled Victory Medal) and Defence Medal. The 1939-45 Star is missing. Units contemplating replacing medals in a hurry and unable to get an answer from the relevant medal office are invited to ring me at home on 01252 613029. I would be happy to make an educated guess and to suggest questions to ask to avoid glaring errors. – Lt Col (Retd) Ashley R Tinson, medals adviser to Royal British Legion.

● Hugh L King of Farnham, Surrey and W M Thornton, of Southall, Mddx, have written on the same point.

Smallest army

RE your claim that the Falkland Islands Defence Force is the smallest army in the world (Sept), Pitcairn's tiny population provided enough personnel in the Second World War to maintain a radio station. Of Europe's armies, Monaco has 30-40 personnel, mainly on ceremonial duties at Prince Rainier's palace, and the Republic of San Marino has about 15-30 personnel, all officers, who parade twice a year. – Peter de Wood, Schwalmthal, Germany.

Dunkirk disaster

KEN Clarke (Mailbag, Nov) has no chance of a medal for Dunkirk. The 1939-45 Medal covers this campaign. – E Kelly, Dover, Kent.

Not so fork-less

I READ Capt Mapstone's comments on the 350cc Matchless regarding not tele-forks until 1949. The Matchless 350cc G3L went into production in 1941-42 and was fitted with telescopic forks. Triumph produced the 499cc SV twin fitted with tele-forks in 1948. – D Blackman, ex-Royal Dragoons, Eastbourne, E Sussex.

Helpful advice

I have found the Army Careers Office in my town to be very helpful and I would like to thank the staff, who have also helped some of my friends join up. – Philip Halson (16), Moulton, Northampton.

Pip's campaign

IT WAS with great sadness that I read of the death of Col Pip Newton. I wonder who will carry on our campaign for a Suez Canal Zone Medal. – A G Croucher (ex-1st East Surreys, Tel El Kebir 1951-54) Winchester.

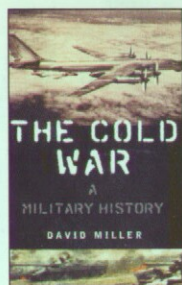
As a member of the Suez Medal delegation to Whitehall in March I reckon we owe it to Col Pip Newton's memory to carry on the fight for a medal for service in the Suez Canal Zone. – Pete Newton, Sutton, London.

● A footnote to Suez correspondence (Oct) referred to S Esdon, ex-3 Coldm Gds, of Halesowen. It should have read S Elsdon.

Books

Cold facts of the war that never was

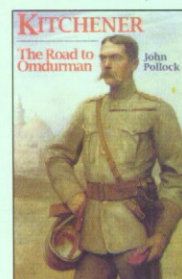
DAVID Miller, who served in the British Army for 36 years, is in no doubt that the years 1949 to 1991 would have impressed the Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu, who in the fifth century BC said that "to subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill".



Miller has, in 476 fact-filled pages, written in detail of those years – in which two great alliances taunted each other without coming to blows – and the arsenals deployed in **The Cold War: A Military History** (John Murray, £25).

Digging out truth on Lord Kitchener

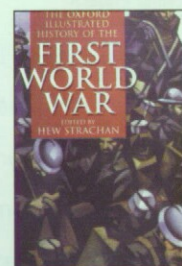
THANKS to the pendulum of historical review, the reputation of Fd Marshal Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, like Haig's, is enjoying a transformation.



Perceived wisdom that the hero of Omdurman, who was to drown at sea in HMS *Hampshire* in 1916, was a butcher, dictator and homosexual are corrected with the aid of diligent digging-out of evidence (or confirmation of lack of it) by John Pollock in the excellent **Kitchener: The Road to Omdurman** (Constable, £20), first volume of a two-part biography based on private papers.

Whys and wherefores of First World War

EDITOR Hew Strachan, remarking in **The Oxford Illustrated History of the First World War** on the enormous body of literature engendered by the conflict,



notes that the rate of publication is expanding rather than contracting. In commemorating the Armistice last month this magazine only skimmed the surface of new books, but this impressively illustrated volume (Oxford University Press, £25) is well worth a special mention because it summarises, in a scholarly yet accessible way, current research into, and thinking on, the causes and effects of the war through the contributions of 23 gifted academics.

Priests, Kangaroos, and woolly long johns

ANYONE tempted to think the task of gunners in the Second World War was less hazardous compared with the poor bloody infantry should read George S Blackburn's book, **The Guns of Normandy: A Soldier's Eye View, France 1944**.

Shells do not distinguish between the soldiers on whom they fall, and the author tells the story in graphic detail: "Shells crash in, one after another, until it seems that they'll never stop – the smashers of sound shattering your wits and the shuddering concussions destroying your equilibrium."

"And when every hole around here must have been hit except this one, it is suddenly quiet – so quiet the buzz of flies is noticeably loud."

Blackburn, a Canadian gunner officer, landed in Normandy soon after D-Day. His disarmingly subjective narrative begins with a worry which will be familiar to all leaders, from lance-corporal up, going into action for the first time – the thought of appearing stupid. No matter what other emotions, such as compassion and fear growing into terror are to follow, there always remains the awareness of the need to lead by example.

This is a compelling and

sometimes been levelled against Canada's fighting men. These started, he claims, with Eisenhower, needled by his deputy, Air Chief Marshal Tedder, calling for Montgomery's head because of the 21st Army Group commander's inability to break out south of Caen.

The Guns of Normandy: A Soldier's Eye View, France 1944 by George S Blackburn. (Constable, paperback, £12.99).

100 Days of War for Peace by Dr Paul German. (Published by Charles Corlet, Conde-sur-Noireau, France; English edition available from Peter Harrison, Larkhill, Harpsden Way, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1NS. Paperback, £12).

One Day in a Very Long War by John Ellis. (Jonathan Cape, £25).

Spectator in Hell by Colin Rushton. (Pharoah, paperback, £6.99).

enlightening read. In one passage he tells us how 72 Kangaroo armoured personnel carriers came to be improvised by four officers and 250 tradesmen "almost overnight" from Priest self-propelled guns borrowed from the Americans for use in the Falaise battle.

In another we gather that the Canadian army landed in Normandy wearing scratchy, thick woollen longjohns, whereas British troops had their underpants, cellular, and did not see a pair of longjohns until well into the winter. The Canadians must have wished their Q Branch had not such odd ideas about European summers.

The author is apparently sensitive to criticism that has

subjectively involved, who has intelligently researched the strategic and tactical aspects of a military campaign, in this case from the time of the Normandy landings, to the extent of being critical of both German and Allied commanders.

In **100 Days of War for Peace**, German pinpoints the opportunity missed by the Allies to seize the village of Fresnay-le-Buffard on August 14, 1944, which he contends could have shortened the campaign.

The author, who was wounded on D-Day, June 6, died in 1986 at the age of 81, shortly after the French edition of this book was published.

Translator Peter Harrison undertook the work at the request of the author's widow. It is competent, but the description of all commanding officers, both German and Allied, as "commandants" is somewhat confusing – and an index and a few more maps would have helped the reader.

Nevertheless this is a valuable addition to the literature of the Second World War.

John Ellis must be smarting from the backslapping he has received for his style of military history from such heavyweights as John Keegan, Len Deighton and the late Gen Sir John Hackett. He was particularly praised for his study of

the Second World War fighting man in *The Sharp End*.

Now he deserves further accolades as he brings his huge talent for blending social, political and military commentary to bear in *One Day in a Very Long War*.

In it he concentrates on the events of October 25, 1944 to paint a sweeping yet surprisingly detailed picture of the war on various fronts.

Actions on that day included the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines, the advance of the Red Army into Eastern Europe and the bombing of Essen and Hamburg.

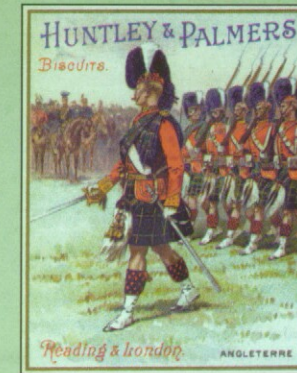
Other theatres to which the author devotes chapters include Italy, Greece and Burma, but it has to be said that the section which leaves most impression (like a kick from a jackboot) is a stomach-churning description of the

Calling all cartophiles

ILLUSTRATED here is part of the front cover of *The Gordon Highlanders*, first in a series called *Famous Regiments on Cigarette and Trade Cards*.

Author and publisher David J Hunter says the 56-page paperbacks, with 16 pages in full colour, will come out every three months – *The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters* in January 1999 and *The Queen's Royal Lancers* in April, "with further ones dependent on the success of the series".

Judging by the reaction at *Soldier*, the series will run and run. The copy sent to the magazine for review was seized successively by a colonel and a photographer, proving the continuing fasci-



nation for these collectables.

Copies (at £7.95 plus 50p p&p) are available from the author at 11 Sunnindale Drive, Tollerton, Nottingham, NG12 4ES.

inhuman squalor and degradation of Nazi labour and concentration camps.

Scenes of unspeakable cruelty from one of those camps, Auschwitz, are etched indelibly in the memory of Arthur Dodd, who is the subject of Colin Rushton's revealing *Spectator in Hell*.

Few people were aware that British prisoners-of-war were held there. Dodd, an Army despatch rider captured after Tobruk and not a Jew, was one of 25 "difficult" POWs taken to the camp (and one of 400 British there in all).

This brave man remained a trouble-maker – protesting at the brutal treatment of other inmates, himself being beaten up by SS guards, and risking his life on several occasions to sabotage the camp.

It is surprising that Dodd has not told his story until now. Perhaps a clue lies in the fact that soon after his return home to Cheshire he was asked to give a talk to people in Northwich, who greeted his descriptions of the horrors he had witnessed in embarrassed and apparently disbelieving silence. With him was a survivor of Arnhem, who was feted as a hero. – BJ, CH

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inhuman squalor and degradation of Nazi labour and concentration camps. Scenes of unspeakable cruelty from one of those camps, Auschwitz, are etched indelibly in the memory of Arthur Dodd, who is the subject of Colin Rushton's revealing *Spectator in Hell*.

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Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free professional military booksearch.

Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 1315). E-mail address: books@helion.co.uk Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

Miss this true-life thriller if you dare

IT would be a gross understatement to describe Col David Sutherland's life and career as "colourful". The title of his memoir – **He Who Dares: Recollections of service in the SAS, SBS and MI5** (Leo Cooper, £21.95) – offers a few broad hints. Add to those Eton,

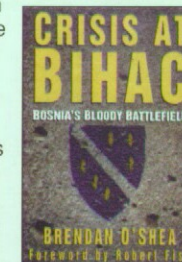
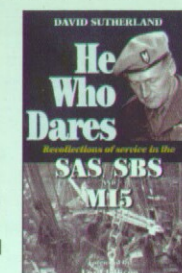
The Black Watch, and three years in the 1950s as an instructor at Sandhurst when King Hussein of Jordan was a cadet, and you have a flavour of this enjoyable true adventure story from a natural but modest raconteur who once suggested that Kim Philby, then still only a spy suspect, be removed from MI6 by lacing his whisky with cyanide.

Life and death in a 'safe haven'

DRAWING on his own experiences as an EC Monitoring Mission observer, coupled with eye-witness and documentary accounts, Brendan O'Shea, an Army officer with the Irish Defence Forces, has pieced together the facts of one of the most disturbing tragedies of the former Yugoslavia. In **Crisis at Bihać: Bosnia's Bloody Battlefield** (Sutton, £19.99) he describes events between 1992 and 1996 in the UN "safe haven" at Bihać – actually one of the most dangerous places on earth.

Northern Ireland: a soldier's story

MANY hard-hitting books have been written about life in the SAS; relatively few have applied the same first-hand treatment to service in Northern Ireland. Nicky Curtis MM, formerly of the Green Howards and one of the most highly-decorated soldiers to have served in the province, fills the gap with the powerful and explicit **Faith and Duty** (Andre Deutsch, £17.99). The title reflects the conflict between the author's Roman Catholic upbringing and his experiences of atrocities in the 1970s.



Bulletin board

British Korean veterans march with the Kiwis

British veterans, right, who fought alongside the Kiwis during the Korean War, march to a memorial service at the 15th national reunion in Whangarei, New Zealand. The 480 registered veterans who took part in the parade and service included 40 from the United Kingdom who had visited Seoul on their way to New Zealand.

Picture: Ian Mackley



London reunion will mark start of Korean War

AN ambitious week-long international reunion of tri-Service Korean War veterans from 22 countries is being planned in London from July 18-23 to mark the 50th anniversary of the eve of the conflict.

It is anticipated that, for the first time, every country involved in the war will be represented at the same reunion.

Hosted by the British Korean Veterans Association, the programme will include a service at St Paul's Cathedral, lunch at the Guildhall, a garden party at Buckingham Palace, visits to Windsor Castle and the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and a parade and inspection on Horse Guards.

Veterans in the UK and abroad should contact their local BKVA or KVA branch secretary or the BKVA organising office at 38 Spring Street, London W2 1JA (tel +44 (0) 171 224 9069 or fax +44 (0) 171 224 9061).

For specially-selected, discounted accommodation in Central London hotels and university buildings and pre- and post-reunion holiday enquiries in Europe, contact Saga Holidays Ltd, The Saga Building, Middleburg Square, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1AZ (office hours freephone 0800 300 666; or tel +44 (0) 1303 771 or 771 221; or fax +44 (0) 1303 776 686).

SEARCHLINE

The HSF (Home Service Force) Association, which has an annual get-together and national meeting, is in the process of approaching the MoD for a national HSF badge. The association organises an annual concentration, while units arrange camping events and sponsored walks. Anyone interested should contact national co-ordinator Claude Ingham, 7 Bennet Walk, Braunstone, Leicester LE3 1LW (01162 910746) or secretary Sid Stephens, 28 Enfield Avenue, Crosby, Liverpool L23 0SZ.

Coldstream Guards 1959: J Fisher and B Thorpe, who were Barrack Room-trained soldiers in Sgt Horsfall's brigade squad at the Guards Depot are asked to contact Peter Horsfall on 0181 882 6072.

Ten-day trip to **Singapore** and **Malaysia** planned for Easter 2000 is open to RAMC, RADG, QARANC serving and retired, also attached medical units. Further details from T Binks on 01305 852969 or send sae to him at 7 Woodsford Road, Egdon Heath, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8UV.

Ex-Cpl **Ted Abbott** would like to hear from old comrades from his time with the RCT (1971-83), particularly Vic Northover and Steve McIntosh. He served in Northern Ireland in 1972, in Berlin around 1979, and in close-protection in London. Replies to Lyn Abbott, c/o Mrs C Laming, Hatch Farm House, Hatch Lane, Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7LP.

The **Victorian Military Society's Diehard Company Corps of Drums** is looking for an ex-drummer willing to give instruction or help run the corps. It is based on a company of the Middlesex Regiment in the 1880s and has members in the Midlands, London and the South East. Contact Graham Gillmore, 81a Wainwright, Werrington, Peterborough, Cambs PE4 5AH (pager 0941 117617).

BBC Radio 4 is preparing a documentary about the **automatic recordings** on disc which were a popular method of communication between Servicemen and their families between the 1930s and 1960s. These recordings are a unique part of our social history and the producers wish to hear from anyone with a

surviving disc. Please contact Alan Dein or Mark Burman at Room 8051, BBC Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA (tel 0171 765 4818).

J A Burrows seeks news of **Ronald Brian Linton**, possibly ex-Royal Hampshire Regiment, and his wife, **Shirley Ann**. Replies to 287 Livesey Branch Road, Blackburn, Lancs BB2 4QJ.

Mrs Maureen Dorrian seeks information on her mother, Gladys Edith Phipps, a mental nurse in Burnside, Kilwaughter, near Larne, Co Antrim at the time of her birth on August 16, 1941, and her father, who was serving with **148 Independent Coy, Reconnaissance Corps**. Also **John Charles Toppalt** of 148 Independent Company. Replies to Mrs Dorrian, 39 Chester Park, Bangor, Co Down, Northern Ireland BT20 3JE.

Jordan 40

There is still time to visit the temporary exhibition on Jordan at the Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot. It marks the 40th anniversary of the 16th Parachute Brigade's assistance to the Hashemite Kingdom.

Items on show include weapons, uniforms... and the Jordan Service Medal approved by King Hussein.

The museum is open daily from 1000-1630 and the exhibition runs until December 18. Details on 01252 349619.

Would **Dave Askew**, Army Air Corps, stationed at Middle Wallop 1985-86, or anyone who knows his current whereabouts, contact Margo Robertson, ex-WRAC Provost, at 163 Thorold Road, Chatham, Kent ME5 7DR. She would also like to contact **Mandy Woods** (married name Pollard), a former WRAC provost; anyone from Squads 8008 to 8013, 1980-81 at Rousillon Barracks; and a cousin, named **Rogerson**, from Scotland, who was, or may still be, in the Royal Military Police.

Postgraduate research student seeks information or views on equal opportunities and the legal issues surrounding the increasing and changing roles of women in the Armed Forces. Contact Mr Whittaker (Postgraduate Research), c/o The Law School, University of Kent, Canterbury or e-mail rjw@ukc.ac.uk

Mrs Mary J Sables wishes to contact friends posted to BATUS, Canada at the same time as her late husband, in particular Capt Roger Dennis (artist), BATUS 1978-79 and 89; Sgt Stewart Barratt REME, 86-87; Sgt Peter Effion W Vaughan REME, 87-88; WO2 Alwyn Jones QDG, 86-89; and Cpl Nick Westwood, Gren Gds, 84-88. Replies to her at 33 Sir Isaac Newton Drive, Boston, Lincs PE21 7SG (01205 356118).

REUNIONS

Royal Regiment of Artillery Association, Exeter Branch: Annual dinner-dance on Dec 12. Tickets from John Seatherton, 8 Seabrook Avenue, Exeter (tel 01392 874072).

1999

Canal Zoners: Suez Canal veterans' organisation spring reunion at Stoke on Trent has been re-arranged to take place on Jan 16-18. Details of this and Victory Club luncheons from The Canal Zoners, 16 Bridge Way, Twickenham TW2 7JJ (enclose sae).

16/5 L, QLR and 17/21 L: The 1999 Aliwal dinner-dance will be held at Tillington Hall Hotel, Stafford on Jan 30. For details send sae to Maj Cook, RMLY, Bridgeman House, Dawley Bank, Telford TF4 2BQ.

Royal Tank Regiment: 26th annual reunion of 1st/4th/7th RTR old comrades will take place on May 14-16 at the St John's Swallow Hotel, Solihull, Warwickshire. Contact G J Bourne, Lyncham Cottage, Yealmpton, Plymouth PL8 2LG (01752 880527) or R T Rathmell, 19 Yeoland Lane, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0YL (01752 893495). RTR, REME, RAPC, ACC, R Signals who served with 1/4/7 RTR also welcome.

2000

Arborfield Army Apprentices, Intakes 50A and 50B: Former apprentices interested in a reunion planned for Oct 2000 should contact Clem Clements on 01604 712128 or Tom Lennox on 01423 865225.

Kitchener's Brat VC goes up for auction

THE Boer War Victoria Cross awarded to Brig Gen Francis Maxwell was expected to fetch between £50,000 and £60,000 at an auction by Spink and Son in London at the end of last month. He won his medal for saving the guns of a battery on March 31, 1900 under massive fire from Boers attacking Sannah's Post from two sides on the Modder River.

Maxwell later became Lord Kitchener's ADC and was dubbed "the Brat" because of his plain speaking. He gained his first VC recommendation in India in 1895 but was awarded the DSO. He won a second DSO in France in 1916 while leading the 12th Middlesex, and, by now a brigadier general commanding the 27th Infantry, was shot dead while on a reconnaissance in September 1917.

Two naval VCs – those of Staff Surgeon William Maillard RN (Crete 1898) and Ensign Everard Phillips (Delhi, 1857) – were auctioned at the same time.



When Philip and Andrew Claridge applied to join the Army, recruiters thought they were getting double value . . . and they were almost right. The twins are identical to the point where it is virtually impossible to tell them apart. They have now completed recruit training at the Army Training Regiment, Lichfield and will join the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment after infantry training at Catterick

Maurice repays old debt – with interest

FORMER National Serviceman Maurice Pegg is a relieved man. He has finally repaid a debt after giving up hope that he would ever find the man who lent him the money . . . 42 years ago.

Maurice spent his National Service shortly after the Second World War on jeep patrols in the Austrian town of Klagenfurt, and it was there that he and his new bride, Lorna, returned on their honeymoon in 1956.

But currency restrictions meant they could take only £28 out of Britain and they ran out of money. Maurice turned to local police inspector Gerhard (Gerry) Pisek, with whom he had become friendly when Gerry worked as a linguist and interpreter for the Allies.

The broke couple borrowed 1,000 Austrian schillings – about £14 or a week's wages – and promised to repay it as soon as they returned to England. But they lost Gerry's address, were ignored when they wrote to the Klagenfurt police headquarters and failed to track him down during three return visits to the country.

Maurice and Lorna had given up any hope of ever repaying the debt when, by now retired and living in Christchurch, Dorset, they met a former colleague from 105 Provost Company RMP who had been in touch with Gerry Pisek.



Together: Gerry, Lorna and Maurice at their 105 reunion

A cheque for £250 – allowing for 42 years' interest – and an offer of accommodation in England were soon in the post to Austria.

Gerry and his wife, Sybilla, stayed with the Peggs when they travelled to England to join Maurice and about 100 former members of the company for a recent reunion of 105 Club (Austria) at Farnborough, Hampshire.

"Gerry befriended most of the MPs passing through Klagenfurt between 1946 and 1956," said Maurice. "He has become the glue that binds 105 MPs together. He has been to three reunions and still projects the quiet, unassuming but helpful manner that he did when attached to 105 Provost Company.

"We are all very proud to be associated with him."

MUSIC/Gordon Turner

Kneller Hall digs into its student past to parade these quick marches



ONE of the key elements in the bandmaster course at the Royal Military School of Music is the composition of a parade quick march. Of the hundreds written over the years, a few have survived while many have disappeared forever.

Now a recording by the Band of The Light Division collects several of these pieces, together with a handful written by professors at the school, into **The Kneller Hall Collection** (Droit Music compact disc FANCD 001).

While some old familiars – *Arromanches* and *The Light Division* – are present, ten of the tracks have never before been recorded and a couple – *Fox's Marines* (dedicated to the DCLI) and *The Empire* (inspired by the Empire Exhibition at Wembley) date back to the 1920s.

IRISH CONTRASTS

The Royal Irish Regiment has released two contrasting recordings. One is a programme of concert music entitled **Symphonic Celebration** (Bandleader compact disc BNA 5147), which features such popular selections as *Riverdance*, *In the Miller Mood* and *Romance from the Gadfly* (better known as the theme from the TV series *Reilly, Ace of Spies*).

The other release is **Choices** (Bandleader compact disc BNA 5148) by the Pipes and Drums, which comprises 21 tracks and 76 tunes, predominantly Irish airs. Like many others, I enjoy pipes and drums, but 60 minutes was a little too demanding for me and I was relieved when the military band put in an appearance for *The Last of the Great Whales*.

Sound quality, however, is excellent and the disc is highly recommended to all lovers of the pipes.

March enthusiasts are directed to a release by the Band of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment (The 1st Rifle Volunteers) which includes such nostalgic favourites as *May Blossom*, *The Vanished Army*, *Staffordshire Knot*, *Namur* and *The Champion* – 18 tracks in all. It is available from the Band Office, 4 D and D, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter EX2 6AE, price £11 for compact disc and £8 for cassette.

If you have any problems obtaining recordings mentioned here, or any queries about military music, please write to me c/o *Soldier*.

Diary

Reconciliation in St Paul's

A RETIRED nurse whose son died in the Falklands War was present in St Paul's Cathedral when Argentina's President Carlos Menem laid a wreath at the memorial to the British fallen. Mrs Rita Hedicker, whose 22-year-old son Peter was one of 17 members of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment killed in the battle for Mount Longdon, was among specially-invited guests who attended the historic ceremony in London.

Pte Hedicker's is one of 252 names on the memorial to British Servicemen who died recapturing the Falkland Islands in 1982. He was killed in hand-to-hand bayonet fighting against Argentine commandos.

The Duke of York, who flew a helicopter during the war, stood alongside President Menem during the act of reconciliation. Other veterans in the cathedral included Simon Weston, the Welsh Guardsman badly burned on RFA *Sir Galahad*.

● Mrs Sara Jones, widow of Col H Jones VC, who died in the Falklands War, helped launch last month's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. As chairman of the RBL Poppy Factory, she welcomed TV stars Penelope Keith and Richard Stilgoe to the ceremony at Legion headquarters in London.

The new Northern Ireland Security Guard Service, which defends military facilities in the Province, has been granted its own distinctive cap badge, an Irish harp surrounded by a laurel wreath and surmounted by a crown. Officers in the NISGS have responsibilities similar to those in its mainland counterpart, the MoD Guard Service.

Maj Nicholas O'Brien AAC received the Grand Master's Commendation for his "outstanding contribution to military flying for 31 years" at the annual awards night of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators of the City of London. He is currently OC Advanced Fixed Wing at the School of Army Aviation and Senior Standards Officer. On the same night, Maj Norman Ryan, Senior Flying Instructor at Headquarters Land Command, received the Sir James Martin Award for his work in the development of safer, more operationally effective flying techniques.

DATES

DECEMBER

5-6: Tenth anniversary Birmingham International Tattoo, National Indoor Arena. Box office 0121 200 2222.

FEBRUARY

6: Royal salute by The King's Troop RHA, Hyde Park, 1200; HAC at Tower of London to mark Queen's accession.

JULY

20-Aug 2: Royal Tournament, Earls Court.
23-25: Invicta Military Preservation Society's War and Peace Show, Beltring Hop Farm and Country Park, Kent.

● To include public events in this diary, contact the Editor.

New tank memorial to Desert Rats shapes up

VISITORS to Thetford Forest in Norfolk will in future find a reminder of the area's links with one of Britain's most famous fighting divisions... the Desert Rats of the Second World War.

A Cromwell tank has been placed on a plinth close to the wartime training ground of the 7th Armoured Division.



Up you go: The Cromwell is hoisted into position at Thetford. Picture: Eastern Daily Press

Driving force behind the project was former Desert Rat Les Dinning, who acquired the tank and gained the support of the Queen, the Forestry Commission, 1 RTR, the Royal British Legion and other interested parties - and raised thousands of pounds.

He watched proudly as Fd Marshal Lord Carver unveiled the tank at the High Ash Camp site in front of an audience of about 1,000 veterans and VIPs. Guards of honour were provided by 1 RTR and the Kent and London Yeomanry.

Donations, payable to "7th Armoured Division Fund", are still needed and may be sent to Les at 402 Simpson Village, Milton Keynes MK6 3AL. He can be contacted on 01908 662784.

ALDERSHOT'S Heroes Shrine, the garrison town's memorial to those who lost their lives in the Second World War, has been re-dedicated following a major face-lift.

The Portland stone figure of Christ in Manor Park, unveiled in 1950, had been badly vandalised. Following pressure from the Friends of War Memorials organisation, Rushmoor Council joined

Standard bearer:
Ex-Para sergeant
Eric Cassidy, right,
at the memorial

Picture: Mike Weston

... while town's old and battered Heroes Shrine gets a face-lift

County Council to restore the statue and surrounding gardens.

Sculptress Josefina de Vasconcellos, now 94, who carved the original figure, agreed to re-carve the hand and re-style the head, which was moulded by Simon Smith. Stones, originally gathered from bomb-damaged buildings of 18 cities



forces with with Hampshire

and 34 boroughs throughout Britain, and plaques were also cleaned up.

The Rev Caroline Wareham led the service, attended by Rushmoor chief executive Andrew Lloyd and mayor Cllr Peter Moyle. Standard bearers Eric Cassidy of the Aldershot branch of the Parachute Regiment Association and Ken MacDonald of the Royal Naval Association, formed a guard of honour.

A memorial has been unveiled at the mountain village of Gemmano in Italy to honour thousands of soldiers who fell during tens days of some of the bloodiest fighting of the Second World War. Italy Star Association 1943-45 veterans were among those who heard a message from the Prince of Wales. Driving force behind the project was Italian military historian Prof Amedeo Montemaggi, who is also behind plans for a room in the Gemmano museum dedicated to Maj (later Brig) M E M MacWilliam CBE DSO MC TD, commander of 2/7 Queens during the battle.

The Ven John Holliman, Deputy Chaplain General and Archdeacon for the Army, marked the 30th anniversary of his ordination with a celebration of Holy Communion at Tidworth Garrison Church. He has served in Germany, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

A poignant Service of Remembrance on November 11 marked the end of the line for St Mark's, Shorncliffe, once the largest church in the British Army. Built as the garrison church during the Second World War with help from German prisoners-of-war, St Mark's has become redundant. In the 1970s it could boast a congregation of up to 1,400.



Ven John Holliman

The Company of Merchant Adventurers in York is to set up an affiliation with The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. It will present three pewter mugs to the regiment to be awarded annually for outstanding achievement in its Regular, TA and cadet force elements.

Cor Blighty! Did you know that the expression "Blighty", used by soldiers during the First World War to describe Britain, came from the Hindustani word *bilayati*, which means "a place some distance away".

Fd Marshal Sir John Chapple, former Chief of the Defence Staff, visited Firmin and Sons, the button and insignia manufacturers. The Birmingham-based company has been a major supplier to the military since its formation more than 300 years ago.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, December 1948

SCALING THE HEIGHTS

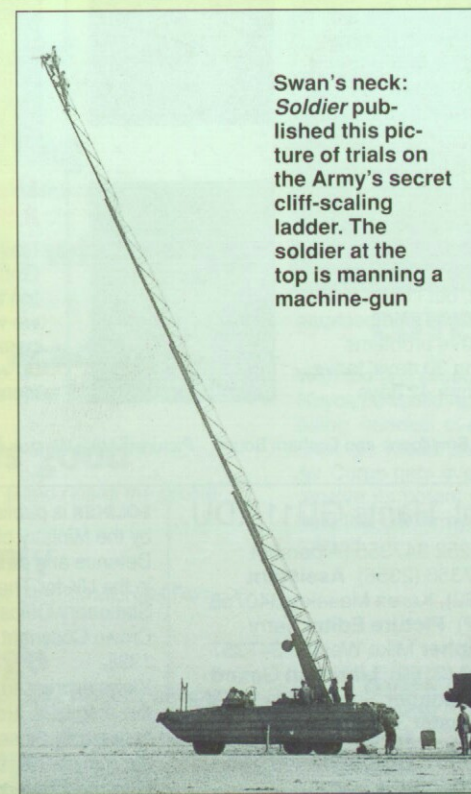
Another secret of the Second World War is out: the seaborne cliff-scaling ladder. *Soldier* exclusively reveals that the device, code-named Swan, was a 100ft fire escape ladder bolted to a DUKW amphibious vehicle. Twin machine-guns were fitted to the top of the ladder to offer covering fire.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, December 1973

DANGER BENEATH THE SANDS

A small party of sapper bomb disposal experts is involved in a mammoth ten-year project to clear an explosive graveyard off the Essex coast. It is estimated that at least a quarter of a million shells lie beneath the sands off Shoeburyness, which has been used for testing since the early 19th century. It has been identified as the site of London's third airport.

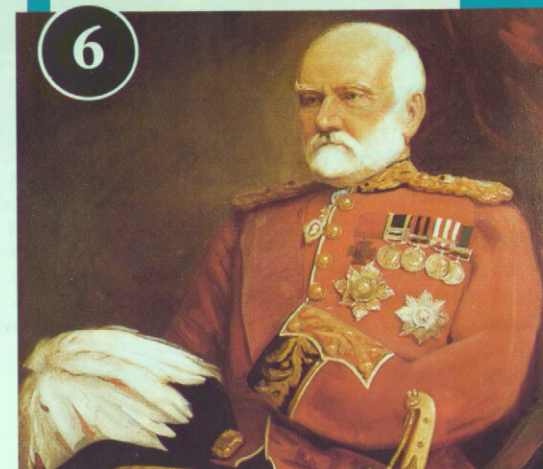


Swan's neck: Soldier published this picture of trials on the Army's secret cliff-scaling ladder. The soldier at the top is manning a machine-gun

Treasures of the National Army Museum



6



Inventor: Gen Sir Sam Browne VC

A belting good idea

THE familiar "Sam Browne" belt takes its name from its inventor, Gen Sir Samuel James Browne VC. In common with many Victorian officers, Sam Browne found the official Army waistbelt with slings unsuitable for carrying a sword and revolver, so he devised a brown leather belt to carry his weapons.

Its shoulder brace enabled the load to be distributed more comfortably and included space for a holster. Other officers soon appreciated the practicality of the design and adopted it.

AUTHORISED

It became popular during the Second Afghan War 1878-9 but was not officially authorised for the British Army until 1899.

Browne won his Victoria Cross during the Indian Mutiny when he charged and captured a rebel gun. He was severely wounded during the action, losing his left arm.

Tradition has it that he designed his famous belt as a result of his disability, but in his journal Browne wrote that he first conceived of the belt in 1852, six years before he lost the limb.



Gen Sam Browne's belt is on display in the "Cut, Thrust and Swagger" exhibition at the National Army Museum. His medals are on display in the "Soldiers of the Raj" exhibition.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Love it or leave it?

With the need to squeeze leave in between operational duties, and with weekends often counted in the allocation, getting a decent holiday can be hell. But things may be about to change. Next year junior ranks will have their annual allowance of 30 days increased to 42. Good news? We asked 12 soldiers serving in London.

Gdsm Adrian Stanley, Coldm Gds

Everyone will be treated more fairly. The only problem is that we aren't entitled to as many rail warrants. We used to get four but now we only get one.



Cpt Kerry Levins, R Signals

As an officer I have 42 days' leave already but if it makes it better for the boys, it sounds good. It's just a pity that we don't have extra pay, too.



Cpl Deborah Walker, R Signals

By doing this it is making up for the weekends lost during blocks of leave. It is more time off, so I'm all for it.



Sgt Nick Kettle, Coldm Gds

I think it will be fairer. We all do the same job and we should all get the same leave. There are problems fitting it in so I think it should be possible to carry leave over into the next year.



Gdsm Jason Innes, Coldm Gds

It won't change things much for us because in this company efforts are made so we can catch up on our leave. But overall, I think it will be better. A bit more pay wouldn't go amiss.

Sig Piers Daw, R Signals

It sounds appealing but it is a question of whether or not we can fit it in. At the moment it isn't too bad because it is quiet here, but it may be a problem taking more leave.



Gdsm Cliff Lunn, Coldm Gds

At the moment we're really busy and we have problems fitting our existing leave in. So I don't see how we are going to be able to take more time off.

Sig Ben McFaul, R Signals

We do have enough leave but it will be better because we can spread out our holidays more and it will be equal throughout the ranks.



Sig Barry Maitland, R Signals

It will be an improvement. There may be problems with taking the leave, though, because it's quite difficult at the moment.

Sig Maggie West, R Signals

I think that it is fair because we should all have the same amount of leave. I don't think that fitting it in should be too much of a problem because we are only really busy for part of the year.



Cpl Steve Hook, R Signals

I think it is good that we are brought in line with the senior management, but I don't know how it will fit in because we have problems getting 30 days' leave, let alone 42 days.



LCpl Darren Pond, R Signals

I think it is a good thing. Getting the time off isn't too bad here because we work around the parades. We could just do with a salary increase next time.



Interviews: Katie Smallbone and Graham Bound Pictures: Mike Weston

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COMING SOON

- Last troops pull out of Benbecula
- Army sets standard for trauma care



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